

910 Lincolnshire Drive, #302
Champaign, Illinois 61821
June 15, 2026

Debra Savage, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street (2nd Floor)
Springfield, Illinois 62761



To: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

I am writing in support of the Advocates for Aging, Champaign County application for a **Certificate of Need (CON)** to establish a new skilled nursing facility which would include 120 beds in Savoy Illinois.

I was the primary caregiver for my husband from 2013 until his death May 2024. He was diagnosed with congestive heart failure, dementia, and other health complications of aging. During that time, we lived together at home and in two different assisted living facilities. In the Fall 2022, he entered Carle Hospital through the emergency room for several days of care. When he was ready for transfer to a skilled nursing facility for rehabilitation, I was given a list of facilities from which to choose that were located in the east central Illinois area. Lack of available beds in those I preferred to use forced me to select a one star rated facility located in Champaign.

After arriving at the facility with him, I chose to stay overnight with him. Thanks to a temporary, travel nurse he received excellent care that night. Contracted rehab staff provided excellent care during his stay. But, the daily personal care provided by on-site staff was very limited, uncaring, and not considerate of the impact of dementia upon his ability to respond to direction. Day after day, he received inadequate care! They kept instructing him on what he should do. With dementia he was unable to follow through! He was not wearing foot covers. Why? They didn't have any that fit him. He was sitting on a soaked towel. Why? They didn't have any Depends to fit him. He hadn't been served his meal. Why? It was sitting on the cart while they fed another patient. There were so many examples of inattention to his basic needs! He was so confused! He felt I had abandoned him. I was at a loss as to what to do!

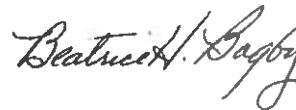
On the sixth day, when I arrived to be with him, the rehab person told me that he had not done all of my husband's rehab that morning because he could not stay awake. We went in together to see if he could try doing the rest of the rehab for that day. We found my husband unconscious! With the help of the rehab staff (facility staff provided me no help!), an ambulance was called, I gathered his things, and my husband was returned to the hospital. After treatment in the hospital, he was returned to live with me in an assisted living facility (with me designated as the primary caregiver). I also signed him up for hospice support. Six months later, he had recovered to the point that we returned home to live independently but with continuing hospice support. We lived independently for nine months before his death.

A one star skilled nursing facility was totally inappropriate placement for my husband receiving essential care after his hospital stay. The only reason for that choice was bed availability and closeness to our home. I could be with him. Friends and family could visit him. But, he did not receive basic, essential care for health improvement. The facility did not have a basic stock of supplies. They had insufficient staffing. Staff was not trained to give quality care. They were not interacting appropriately with patients with dementia. It was a miserable experience for everyone! I will never forget those awful days of 2022.

Residents in the East Central Illinois area would be richly blessed with the addition of skilled nursing beds to give them a choice for care when facing critical health challenges for their family members. This proposed plan is particularly positive because of the extensive research that has been done to establish the need and to discover an outstanding option for exceptional care. They have found an established developer with a track record of similar cottage-based projects and a unique "person directed" approach to elder care. They have found an extensive variety of leaders within the surrounding community here in Illinois in support of this project and what it can mean to the lives of families in east central Illinois. I do hope that you will recognize the value of the work that has already been done in preparation of this application and the wide spread support for rapidly moving forward in following through in completing such a worthwhile project.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Beatrice H. Bagby".

Beatrice H. Bagby
217-351-7535