

July 25, 2011

Dale Galessie, Chairman  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
Fax: 217-785-4111

I am writing in opposition to the proposal (11-037) to discontinue services at Oak Forest Hospital. I urge you to deny the request by the Cook County Health and Hospitals Systems Board.

My husband is a diabetic. During the course of this past winter he had a very low sugar level that resulted in him going to the hospital. I wanted him to go to Oak Forest but because his level was so low he had to go to the St. James Olympia Fields site. The staff in the emergency room called my doctor and they agreed on a course of action for temporary care.

Due to our insurance coverage (Blue Cross/Blue Shield), they would not keep him. Our nurse was very polite and apologized for this. He felt that Brett should have stayed over night there until his level was safe for him. Please be advised that it was normal by medical standards but it kept fluctuating and the winter storm was bad and I was alone.

After talking to our primary doctor, they felt it would be safe to transfer him to South Suburban Hospital which is in the Advocate Network. By nightfall he was transferred.

Doctor Chicos wanted my husband to be observed for two days to make sure his insulin level would not change. Because of the type of insulin he is on hypoglycemia is a major side effect.

I will tell you that I was afraid. What if we did not have insurance.

How would the cost of two hospitalizations and ambulance visits be paid.

I want the hospital kept open because it is in my area and provides care for those who cannot pay for health care. They cannot make it to these neighboring hospitals that say they will help them.

In March and May of 2011, the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board concluded that the Oak Forest proposal would increase the number of intensive care/long-term care beds needed and cause a capacity crunch at surrounding hospitals. Also, the board concluded that there are no indications that the surrounding hospitals can or will accept these patients. The current proposal from the county does nothing to address these concerns.

For these reasons, we ask you to deny the County's request.

Sincerely yours,  
Cheryl Mcgruder  
4555 Saratoga Road  
Richton Park, IL 60471  
Telephone: 815-341-1277

# Citizen ACTION ILLINOIS

## FAX MEMORANDUM

TO: Courtney Avery

ORG: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

FAX NO: 1-217-785-4111

FROM: Cheryl Megruder

RE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: July 25, 2011 TIME: 2:32 pm

PAGES: 2 (Including this cover sheet)

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