



VILLAGE OF ORLAND HILLS

July 21, 2011

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

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am writing to urge you and your fellow board members to deny the request by the Cook County Health and Hospital System (CCHHS) to discontinue Oak Forest Hospital (CON 11-037) as an acute care hospital because of the adverse impact it will have on the regional health services.

After a review of the discontinuation request in March and May of this year, the Illinois Health and Hospital Review Board concluded that:

"The proposed project does not appear to be in conformance with the discontinuation review criterion (77IAC 1110.130)"

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 is no indications that surrounding hospitals can or will accept these patients. The current proposal from the county does nothing to resolve these concerns.

As you are aware, the south suburbs and far south side of Chicago are an area that is demonstrably underserved in medical and health care services. Oak Forest Hospital plays a crucial role in providing critical services, and that is why it is known as the people's hospital.

The mission of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System is "To deliver integrated health services with dignity and respect regardless of a patient's ability to pay; foster partnerships with other health providers and communities to enhance the health of the public; and, advocate for policies, which promote and protect the physical, mental and social well-being of the people of Cook County."

The proposed changes to Oak Forest Hospital are in violation of this mission.

I am asking you to deny CCHHS's request.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kyle R. Hastings