

AARON SCHOCK
18TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-1602

August 8, 2011

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Courtney Avery, Project Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

11-063

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing you on behalf of Proctor Hospital, a medical facility located in my district. Proctor Hospital is seeking to build a new geropsychiatry unit and has applied for a Certificate of Need (CON) from the State of Illinois.

Central Illinois is in great need of the services this new unit will provide. The area has experienced the closing of a state-operated psychiatric hospital, recent community mental health agency funding cuts, and a shortage of psychiatrists. All of these developments have limited access to psychiatric care, particularly for the growing aged population with comorbid mental health and medical needs.

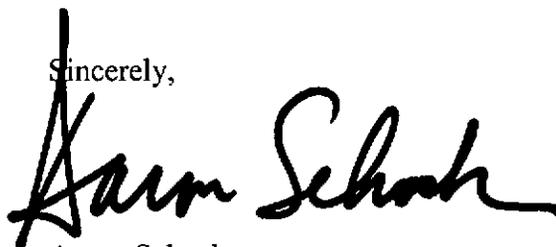
In light of this need, Proctor Hospital seeks to open the new unit as soon as possible. However, an unfortunate confluence of events threatens to delay the provision of these services.

Work on the geropsychiatry unit cannot begin until after receipt of a CON. At the same time, if the new unit is not completed prior to the start of the hospital's fiscal year on January 1, 2012, they will be unable to meet Medicare's DRG requirements. This would make Proctor Hospital unable to bill Medicare, the primary insurance provider for most prospective patients, and would delay the opening of the new geropsychiatry unit by another year.

It has come to my attention that Proctor Hospital has contacted your office to request an expedited hearing on October 12th or 13th, rather than their currently scheduled hearing date of November 22nd. Such a move would provide Proctor Hospital with the time needed to meet the requirements of both the State of Illinois and Medicare, and allow the geropsychiatry unit to open without further delay. I urge you to consider this request carefully, and hope that it will receive a favorable response.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. If there is anything else that I can do to support this request, I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Schock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "A".

Aaron Schock
Member of Congress

AJS/br