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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois – 62761

11-056

Dear Review Board,

I do not presume to understand hospital finance or Medicare regulations, but I would hope that Culbertson Memorial Hospital could find a more palatable solution to their problems than closing the small, private pay long term care unit. I am asking that you deny their request for closure.

My primary reason is personal. My mother and aunt are residents of the long term care unit. Leaving their homes was difficult. The choice for each was a small unit where they would receive good care. If this unit were to close, my mother and aunt would need to be moved after having adapted to the routine and personnel. This would be and is a major stressor for our family.

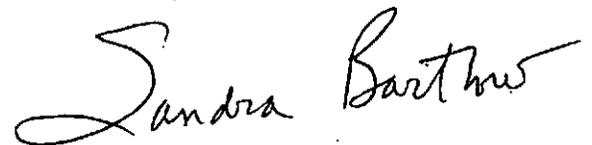
In addition, I have community concerns if the long term unit were to close. Current families in the area needing to make a decision regarding an elder going to a long term unit will have little choice. With this closure, there is only one large long term care facility in Rushville. There are facilities out-of-town but that means increased travel for families.

Also, I cannot help but wonder if the closure of this unit of the hospital is not just the beginning of the slippery slope for closure of the entire Culbertson hospital which would be a definite negative for the community.

This long term care unit provides a profit for the hospital, jobs for the community, a choice for area families, and good service to its residents.

I respectfully ask that you consider keeping this unit open.

Sincerely,



Sandra Bartlow