

June 19, 2012

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Dale Galassie, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Support for ManorCare Health Services of Crystal Lake (Proj. No. 12-039)

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am the Vice President of Mercy Health System in Illinois. I am writing in support of HCR ManorCare's proposal to establish a 130-bed skilled nursing facility in McHenry County. This facility will improve access to intensive rehabilitation care for patients in the community and help meet the projected need for 469 additional long-term care beds in the community.

During more 125 years of service, Mercy has transformed from a stand-alone hospital to an integrated health system with 68 facilities serving 26 communities throughout northern Illinois and Wisconsin. We are acutely aware of the need for post-acute services like those ManorCare's facilities provide every day. As such, we support ManorCare's plans to improve these services in McHenry County.

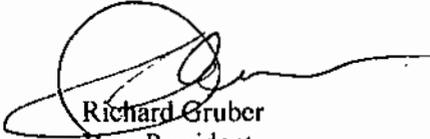
ManorCare is a proven leader in skilled nursing and rehabilitation care. It provides a wide range of comprehensive medical services for patients throughout the nation. In fact, in 2011, its skilled facilities services over 156,000 patients nationwide. ManorCare has demonstrated its ability to improve outcomes and assist patients in managing their care needs. Approximately 95% of its patients who have community discharge goals achieve these goals and 87% of those discharged to the community report they are prepared to manage their care needs.

Further, by recognizing each individual's physical, mental and social needs, ManorCare is able to provide an environment where residents maintain an optimal level of self-care and independence for as long as possible. It promotes a philosophy of care designed to support the highest practicable level of engagement and function for those experiencing dementia. Notably, the focus is on residents' remaining abilities, not on what they have lost.

Additionally, ManorCare Health Services of Crystal Lake will be a state-of-the-art facility which make residents' stays as comfortable as possible. By providing a comfortable atmosphere, new equipment and facilities and numerous amenities to go along with a highly trained staff and quality of care, this facility will provide a restorative and healing environment for rehab patients and it will be well suited to provide long-term care services to individuals who make it their home. ManorCare has invested in ensuring that evidence-based, comprehensive practice guidelines are available to the clinical team to help provide the level of care these individuals, who are often frail, elderly and susceptible to conditions common to aging, require.

Accordingly, we are happy to support this project and respectfully ask the Board to approve it.

Sincerely,


Richard Gruber
Vice President
Mercy Health System