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MEMORIAL HOME

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Kathryn J. Olson
Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
2nd Floor
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Chairwoman Olson,

I would like to offer this letter of support for the planned 18 bed skilled nursing facility at Luther Oaks in Bloomington. The new skilled nursing facility will be used by Luther Oaks only to provide care for its existing residents and will not accept referrals from the Outside community.

Luther Oaks' has a history of providing quality and compassionate care in its assisted living facility and I am excited about Luther Oaks expanding its range of care to include skilled nursing.

Luther Oaks' employees are a vital part of the local business community. The new skilled nursing facility will bring more jobs to the Bloomington-Normal area and I will assure the continued economic viability of Luther Oaks

A skilled nursing facility with all private rooms and private bathrooms is an asset to the residents served by Luther Oaks. Completion of the skilled nursing facility allows existing Luther Oaks residents and the Bloomington-Normal community a full continuum of care.

Sincerely,



Larry L. Calvert

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Invite and connect people to God and one another through Christ's love

Kathryn J. Olson
Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
2nd Floor
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Sincerely,



Sr. Pastor Brian Goke
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Calvert & Metzler

memorial homes

1115 East Washington Street • Bloomington, Illinois 61701
(309) 828-2415 • Fax (309) 827-8913

Larry L. Calvert
Alex A. Calvert
Directors

Kathryn J. Olson
Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
2nd Floor
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Springfield, Illinois 62761

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Sincerely,



Alex A.. Calvert

October 28, 2013

Kathryn J. Olson, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Chairwoman Olson,

I am writing this letter in support of the planned skilled nursing facility at Luther Oaks in Bloomington, Illinois.

I grew up in the Bloomington/Normal community and was employed by local financial institutions for thirty nine years. Years ago, I was blessed to work for a bank president who allowed me to visit customers in their homes, assist their family members living far away, and even help my customers make the difficult decision of moving from their homes. I helped many customers make the decision to move to the new Westminster Village some thirty six years ago. At that time, the concept of an Independent Retirement Center was new to my community. Over the years, I continued to help my customers and their families make decisions to move to Retirement Centers, Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes. I have been involved with *every* center in our community.

I was president of the BroMenn Service Auxiliary when the agreement between BroMenn Healthcare and Heritage Enterprises was entered into for a partnership of the new Evergreen Village. I attended ground breaking ceremonies for both Evergreen Village and then, Evergreen Place. My involvement with all of our local healthcare agencies came out of love and concern for my aging customers. I didn't only help my customers and their families make the decision to move to a new facility, I also would make continual visits, to make sure they were receiving excellent care.

Five and a half years ago, my aunt's health made it necessary for her to move from her home. Of course, I gave my opinion on my favorite places in the community. Her best friend had moved to Luther Oaks. I knew nothing about this new retirement center, and tried to discourage her. She was adamant; I gave in; and she moved to their assisted living area. It didn't take long before I was blown away by their staff. My aunt was receiving loving, giving, exceptional care. I quickly realized the staff was extremely positive. Over these past 5 ½ years, I have *never heard* any negative comments or backstabbing by staff members. I cannot say the same about any other long-term care living facility in my community.

Several months after my aunt moved, I realized one of my customers in another local retirement center was no longer getting the type of care she deserved. She had dementia that was progressing, and even though the Administrator of this facility assured her family (who lived in Colorado), that she was getting excellent care, I saw differently. I suggested the Luther Oaks Memory Support Unit. After checking this out on line, and talking to her attorney, they asked me to move her. Of course, the waiting list was several months, but after she moved, I saw a huge difference in her personality, and knew it was due to excellent care.

Now that I have provided a rather lengthy background, let me say how delighted I was to learn that Luther Oaks was planning to add a skilled nursing unit to their facility. Several months ago, I read in our local Pantagraph, that the application had been denied by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board. I was upset, concerned, and confused. It wasn't long before several Letters to the Editor appeared in the Pantagraph. I quickly learned why the denial had been made. My initial reaction was that the decision of the board was strictly political! To make such a decision because Mr. Wannemacher says all of his locations are not full was a critical mistake. Your board, has made the decision to deny the outstanding care and services offered by Luther Oaks, *to all of our McLean County citizens.* That is just not fair!

I have had a longstanding relationship with all of the excellent Heritage Enterprises facilities, and am quite surprised that Mr. Wannemacher would lower himself to this level. A duplication of services? Perhaps. He does have a monopoly of locations in our community. So.....is that a reason for denial to Luther Oaks? I believe it is not an adequate reason.

Recently, I have learned that Luther Oaks needs to start over with a new application. I understand they are now asking for an eighteen bed skilled nursing facility, and realize this will only be available for their current residents. This is a much needed addition to Luther Oaks,. I respectfully ask that your board members approve this new application.

I also ask if it would be possible for their original proposal to once again be reviewed and considered. My community is full of aging, long time citizens. Our local citizens deserve, and should be allowed, to go to the *very best* facility of their choosing. As it stands now, Luther Oaks will not be able to assist us.

The choice of where we want to go for long term care should be ours to make. Once again, I believe your review board made a huge mistake, and should reconsider the original proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth Anne Miller". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Ruth Anne Miller
2006 Dream Drive
Normal, Illinois 61761

(309) 452-6308