

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT OFFICE:
10055 WEST ROOSEVELT ROAD
WESTCHESTER, ILLINOIS 60154
PHONE: 708/450-1000
FAX: 708/450-1104

HOUSE COMMITTEES:

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& BRIDGES



EMANUEL "CHRIS" WELCH
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 7TH DISTRICT

January 20, 2015

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
266-S STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
PHONE: 217/782-8120
FAX: 217/524-0448

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FEB 03 2015

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Project #14-066 Reallocation of beds to establish a 12-bed comprehensive physical rehabilitation unit at MacNeal Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery:

I understand the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (IHFSRB) will consider MacNeal Hospital's application to establish a comprehensive physical rehabilitation unit on March 10, 2015. Regrettably, the Illinois House of Representatives will be in Session, therefore I will be unable to appear before the IHFSRB at the Public Participation period to express my strong support for this application. For this reason, I am submitting this letter of support for the record and request that you, consistent with the agency's procedures, incorporate my support into the agency's review of this project.

It has been my privilege to serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Westlake Hospital and as Illinois State Representative of the 7th district representing many west suburban communities of Chicago. Over the years, these positions have allowed me constant communication with the various constituencies that are served by Tenet's hospitals within my legislative district and other nearby western suburbs. These hospitals include Westlake, MacNeal Hospital and West Suburban Medical Center.

It is my position that the planning objectives of Project #14-066 are consistent with the interests of these constituencies, as reflected in the lack of opposition to this project. Specifically, as you are aware, Tenet proposes a plan to expand accessibility to inpatient physical rehabilitation

services at MacNeal -- without increasing your agency's calculated excess of those beds in the area -- by reducing Westlake Hospital's physical rehabilitation beds by the same amount. This plan respects the agency's intention of avoiding an increase in beds, while increasing access to physical rehab beds to MacNeal patients. I support this reallocation of beds across Tenet's hospitals because the Westlake beds that will be taken off-line are not needed. As the application details, Tenet has committed to reduce the number of Westlake physical rehab beds by 12 upon approval of this project, resulting in a unit which is appropriately sized to meet the prospective needs of Westlake's patient population.

Simply stated, all indications are that there will not be a decrease in current services provided at Westlake. I believe that the applicant's project avoids unnecessary expansion of beds, while improving access for MacNeal patients and maintaining sufficient access at Westlake.

Again, I regret that I will be unable to attend the March 10, 2015 hearing in person. Nevertheless, I am appreciative of your consideration of my letter of strong support and urge a favorable vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emanuel P. Welch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Emanuel "Chris" Welch
State Representative, 7th District