

District Office:
2137 S. Lombard, Suite 205
Cicero, Illinois 60804
Phone: (708) 222-5240
Fax: (708) 222-5241

Capitol Office:
286-S Stratton Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706
Phone: (217) 782-8173
Fax: (217) 558-1844



Illinois House of Representatives
Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez
State Representative • 24th District

Committees:

- *Consumer Protection - Chair*
- *Appropriations - Elementary & Secondary Education, Vice Chair*
- *Higher Education - Vice Chair*
- *Appropriations - Human Services*
- *Labor & Commerce*
- *Special Committee on Business Growth & Incentives*

February 4, 2015

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

RECEIVED

FEB 09 2015

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (IHFSRB) will consider MacNeal Hospital's application to establish a comprehensive physical rehabilitation unit by reallocation of 12 beds from Westlake Hospital to MacNeal Hospital during the March 10, 2015 meeting. Due to my legislative calendar, I am unable to appear in person and request that this letter be included in the official record.

As State Representative of the 24th District, I am strongly committed to expanding access to health care in the communities I serve, including the large Latino population in my district. MacNeal is the most convenient hospital option for my constituents. It is centrally located and easily accessible by public transportation and a **fully-bilingual hospital**. The 2010 census indicated that Berwyn's population was 59% Latino. With a patient population that is nearly 40% Latino, MacNeal's physicians and caregivers are very sensitive to the language and cultural needs of the Latino community.

The establishment of a rehabilitation facility at MacNeal will be of great benefit to my constituents who rely on MacNeal to provide care for their loved ones that is bilingual, close to home, and easily accessible. It will also enable MacNeal and its physicians to provide a greater continuity of care for patients who will need inpatient rehabilitation.

I know that Tenet is committed both to respecting the agency's intention not to increase beds, and reallocating its current beds is best meet the needs of the

communities it serves. This reallocation of beds does not ultimately change the number of beds within Tenet's Illinois Hospital system. I believe that the timeline detailed in the Project #14-066 proposal is critical to a smooth, cost-efficient transition which will be of benefit to all of the communities involved. To date, I have not been approached by any opposition to the proposal.

Considering all factors, I strongly support the planning objectives of Project #14-066 and request the Board support the proposal. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Hernandez", written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez
State Representative, 24th District