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MAY 05 2017

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

Imagine being a single mother, 6 months pregnant with your third child and living in Rockford, IL, ten blocks west of the Rock River. You haven't felt the baby move and you're worried. You don't drive. You don't have a car. Your family resources are few, and those you have are unpredictable in their ability to help right now. You know something's wrong and you need to find care for the kids and get to a hospital. What you don't know is that even if an ambulance comes in a hurry, in the 40 minutes it will take you to get on board and across town to the new place by the highway, it will be too late.

Swedish American Health System loves its community. It is committed to staying close by with the finest services, providing lifesaving care to the least able and most needy. It is the light house a large segment of our community needs to turn to more than ever, when other lights have dimmed, to help navigate life's sudden and unexpected medical storms with expedited intervention. Please don't deprive this hospital of anything it needs to fulfill its urgent mission to be the destination that brings timely, excellent, and complete service to all the citizens of our great city.

Respectfully,

Norm Shirk
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