HEARTLAND HEALTH CENTERS
HEALTHCARE FROM THE HEART

July 1, 2019

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am pleased to write on behalf of Heartland Health Centers in support of the planned affiliation between Swedish Covenant Health and NorthShore University HealthSystem. Heartland Health Centers is a strong partner of Swedish Covenant Health, providing expanded health services for those in need through high-quality, low-cost medical care as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Through our partnership, numerous Heartland providers have delivery privileges at Swedish Covenant Hospital, and our patients frequently access diagnostic and specialty care services provided by Swedish Covenant Health.

Heartland Health Centers is also an active participant in ongoing Community Leader engagement meetings, which emphasize community health initiatives including head injury prevention, Bystander CPR and other wellness targets. Swedish Covenant Health has worked closely with our organization to ensure that all members of the community have an opportunity to engage in important wellness offerings. Additionally, Swedish Covenant Health is an active participant in our Community Advisory Board for our Albany Park and Lincoln Square locations.

Swedish Covenant Health's partnership with NorthShore will strengthen and enhance its services for residents in the City of the Chicago. I believe that joining the NorthShore system will allow Swedish Covenant Health to adapt to the ever-changing health care environment while maintaining the patient-centric approach to care it has become known for. Swedish Covenant Health provides significant jobs, critical services, community support and many opportunities within the north side of Chicago. By combining resources with NorthShore, Swedish Covenant Health is taking a huge step to ensure that north side residents have the best, most cost-effective healthcare available, which translates into more stable, long-term healthcare and employment in the community.

This new collaboration will assure access to Swedish Covenant Health's high quality health services for the diverse community they have served for more than 130 years. Heartland Health Centers looks forward to a continued partnership with Swedish Covenant Health as they take this next step to become part of NorthShore University HealthSystem.

Sincerely,

Gwenn Rausch

Gwenn Rausch
Chief Executive Officer

3048 N Wilton Ave., 2nd floor | Chicago, IL 60657
phone: (773) 296-7589 | fax: (773) 296-7637
www.heartlandhealthcenters.org