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June 28, 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 Centro Romero in support of the planned affiliation between Swedish Covenant Health and NorthShore University HealthSystem. Centro Romero has served the refugee immigrant population on the north side of Chicago for more than 35 years and has partnered with Swedish Covenant Health in many ways over the years, from the inclusive development of their Women's Health Center to their ongoing Community Leader engagement meetings.

As a community-based organization, Centro Romero provides essential services that support healthy personal and social development, with a long-term goal to bridge a disenfranchised community of immigrants and refugees into mainstream American society. Swedish Covenant Health has worked closely with organizations like ours to ensure that the Mayora Rosenberg Women's Health Center's vision of breaking down barriers and providing open access to critical women's health services was fulfilled. SCH continues to be committed to all members of the community in countless ways.

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. Centro Romero looks forward to a continued partnership with Swedish Covenant Health as they take this next step to become part of NorthShore University HealthSystem.

Sincerely,

Daysi J. Funes

Daysi J. Funes
Executive Director
Centro Romero