STOP-IT Initiative Against Human Trafficking
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July 9, 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 STOP-IT in support of the planned affiliation between Swedish Covenant Health and NorthShore University HealthSystem. STOP-IT has partnered closely with Swedish Covenant Health via the Violence Prevention Program, to provide supportive services to survivors along with comprehensive education to better prevent, identify and respond to human trafficking.

STOP-IT has collaborated with SCH on their Violence Prevention Program, the only program of its kind in Chicago, since its inception in 2015. We are honored to be a key partner in this program, which strengthens the hospital's capacity to identify survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual assault and connect them to health and support services to improve their physical, emotional and financial recovery.

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. STOP-IT looks forward to a continued partnership with Swedish Covenant Health and their comprehensive Violence Prevention Program as they take this next step to become part of NorthShore University HealthSystem.

Sincerely,

Elyse Dobney, MSW
Program Manager, STOP-IT Program
The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division