George Van Dusen
Mayor

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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 the Village of Skokie in support of the proposed partnership between NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) and Swedish Covenant Health (Swedish). Like the Village of Skokie, NorthShore and Swedish have a common vision and purpose of delivering outstanding care and services across diverse urban and suburban neighborhoods.

Since acquiring Rush North Shore Hospital in 2009, NorthShore has made multimillion dollar investments to create a world class campus that meets the health needs of Skokie and its surrounding communities. The investment is ongoing with NorthShore's recent transformation from a traditional "one-size-fits-all" hospital to a system of specialized medical expertise at all four of its hospitals.

Skokie Hospital also plays a vital role in helping to improve community health. The hospital has provided significant funding to assist in the creation of two Federally Qualified Health Centers—Erie Evanston/Skokie Health Center and Heartland Health Center. Further, Skokie Hospital is a tremendous community advocate, providing financial support and partnerships with numerous local organizations. These include a community "Rethink Your Drink" public education program, Farmers' Market SNAP card purchase match, Turning Point Behavioral Health, Skokie Library summer reading and fitness program, Skokie Park District, Niles Township Food Pantry and participation in Niles Township High Schools' Education to Careers.

I believe NorthShore and Swedish are aligned in their mission to serve the community while maintaining a patient-centered approach to care. Together, patients will benefit from two exemplary physician networks along with additional access points to Immediate Care, Primary Care and Specialty Care services—from Lake County and into the City of Chicago. This also includes responsive care models that address the diverse needs across our populations.

I feel strongly that through the combined exceptional resources of two highly respected institutions, NorthShore and Swedish will take healthcare to the next level—ensuring that all residents will have the best, most cost-effective healthcare available. My hope is that this also translates successfully into more stable, long-term healthcare, and greater employment opportunities in the community.

The Village of Skokie looks forward to our continued partnership with NorthShore as they embark on this exciting journey with Swedish to create transformative healthcare for all patients now and into the future.

Sincerely,

George Van Dusen
Mayor

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