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HEATHER A. STEANS

SENATOR · 7TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:
APPROPRIATIONS I - CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS II
ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION
EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS
EXECUTIVE
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY & PENSIONS
HUMAN SERVICES

July 2, 2019

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

Dear Administrator Avery:

I support the Swedish Covenant Hospital affiliation with NorthShore University Health System. Established over 130 years ago, Swedish Covenant Hospital has a long and distinguished history in this community. As a sponsor of the SMART Act which saved Illinois $1.6 billion in Medicaid costs by increasing the efficiency of the program and the Illinois Medicaid ACA expansion legislation, I am acutely aware of the importance of meaningful access to health care for all.

Swedish Covenant Hospital just recently completed a phased renovation of its emergency department to further enhance this service for the community by improving the operational efficiency and flexibility throughout the department. With the completion of this project the hospital makes excellent progress toward its goal of being better position to meet the growing needs of our patients and to assist emergency department physicians and clinical staff in doing their jobs. A key element of the renovation made special accommodations for behavioral health patients receiving care in the emergency department. The combined organizations will expand access points to primary, immediate and specialty care services; and advance new models of care.

I support the affiliation of Swedish Covenant Hospital with North Shore University HealthSystem because I believe the affiliation will not only further the historical and charitable missions of Swedish Covenant Hospital but will also offer significant benefits to Chicago's north and northwest side communities that would not otherwise be possible if the Hospital continued to operate independently.

Sincerely,

Heather A. Steans
State Senator – 7th District

SOYBEAN INKS