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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms Courtney Avery
Administrator, Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review
Board,

I am writing to you in regards to the request of Javon Bae Hospital to close their inpatient mental health unit on their Rockton Ave campus. I am a nurse, community resident and nurse practitioner student and very concerned about the already lack of mental health resources in our community. I have read they are citing the reason for closure due to low census on the unit. Recently, Javon Bae Hospital/ Mercy Health no accepts most Medicaid patients, likely the reason to decreased census on their mental health unit. I caution you to grant this closure of the unit as this would be a disservice to the patients they serve. It is appalling to me that this would even be consider. During my mental health rotation in nursing school this unit provided life saving services to the community. As a nurse working in the community I see the lack of mental health resources for patients and witnessing another service be taken away is unimaginable. What will happen to the mental health patients while they wait for a bed in another community? How will their families get there to participate in their therapies? I caution you to look into this issue further and investigate whether their claims about the lack of need hold up or rather this is a finically driven issue.

Kindly,
Paige Medearis