



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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RECEIVED

January 29, 2016

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Franciscan St. James Health-Chicago Heights
Franciscan St. James Health-Olympia Fields

F-008-16
16-005


Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter confirms the Archdiocese of Chicago's support for Franciscan Alliance, Inc.'s plans to consolidate its inpatient services at Franciscan St. James Health-Olympia Fields, and to eliminate all inpatient and Emergency Room services from Franciscan St. James Health-Chicago Heights.

The Archdiocese recognizes the critical role that the Chicago Heights hospital has fulfilled for over 100 years in the southern suburbs, and understands the unusual nature of the Archdiocese's endorsement of the elimination of inpatient services of a Catholic hospital. That said, the Archdiocese also understands the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration's unwavering commitment to the region, the fact that alternatives to the hospital's closing have been thoroughly evaluated, and the financial realities of operating two hospitals in such close proximity to one another in a rapidly changing health care environment.

Continued access to care is an important component of Franciscan St. James Health's endeavor. The Archdiocese is confident that those who have traditionally looked to the Chicago Heights hospital for their care will be able to access care through the planned expansion of outpatient and urgent care services in Chicago Heights and at the Olympia Fields hospital, and therefore, the Archdiocese endorses the plans of Franciscan Alliance, Inc. and urges approval of these necessary projects.

Sincerely yours,


Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago