

AARON SCHOCK  
18TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

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Congress of the United States  
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Washington, DC 20515-1602

June 3, 2011

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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dale Galassie, Chairman  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62791

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am writing to express my support for Proctor Community Hospital's Certificate of Need (CON) application to establish an inpatient geropsychiatry unit.

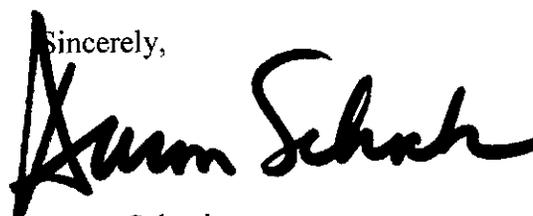
The new unit proposed by Proctor Community Hospital meets an important need in central Illinois. The area has experienced the closing of a state-operated psychiatric hospital, recent community mental health agency funding cuts, and a shortage of psychiatrists. All of these developments have limited access to psychiatric care.

The problem is even more acute for our older population. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau is expected to rise sharply from the years 2010 through 2050. As the baby boom generation reaches their elder years, the demand for geropsychiatry services is expected to increase.

Proctor Community Hospital's proposed geropsychiatry program will increase access to the comorbid mental health and medical needs of the growing aged population in the central Illinois area. Proctor's initiative can decrease emotional suffering, improve physical health, lessen disability, and enhance the quality of life for older adults and their families. These services will also reduce health care expenditures by lowering the frequency of primary care visits, medical procedures, and medication use.

I am pleased that Proctor Community Hospital is applying for a CON permit and add my support to their request. I believe that approving Proctor Community Hospital's CON permit will help meet the medical and mental health needs of all older adults in central Illinois.

Sincerely,



Aaron Schock  
Member of Congress

AJS/br