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ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
MAGGIE CROTTY
STATE SENATOR • 19TH DISTRICT
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

11-037

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July 26, 2011

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
Attn: Mr. Dale Galassie, Chairman
525 W. Jackson St. - 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am writing to urge you and your fellow board members to deny the request by the Cook County Health and Hospital System to discontinue Oak Forest Hospital as an acute care hospital because of the adverse impact it will have on the regional health service.

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board concluded that the Oak Forest Proposal would increase the number of intensive care/long-term care beds needed and cause a capacity crunch at surrounding hospitals. Also, the board concluded that there is no indications that surrounding hospitals can or will accept these patients. The current proposal from the county does nothing to resolve these concerns.

As you are aware, the south suburbs and far south side of Chicago are an area that is demonstrably underserved in medical and health care services. The lack of health care services in our area has always been a major concern and does not meet the southland areas health care needs. Oak Forest Hospital plays a crucial role in providing critical services and that is why it is known as the people's hospital.

I urge the members of the Health Facilities and Service Review Board to deny the Cook County Health and Hospital System's request and continue to offer the much needed health care services in the southland region.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me at anytime.

Sincerely,

Maggie Crotty
Assistant Majority Leader
State Senator ~ 19th District

mme/jmm

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**State Senator
Maggie Crotty**

Fax

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Phone:	Date: 07/26/2011
Re:	CC:

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