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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1602

October 10, 2012

12-074

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Dale Galassie, Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
2nd Floor
525 West Jefferson Street
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OCT 10 2012

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Chairman Galassie and Review Board Members:

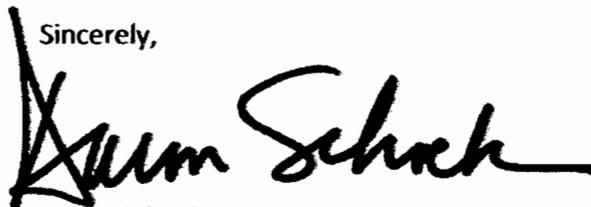
Morgan County, Illinois is located in the 18th Congressional District of Illinois, which I represent. It is home to the Jacksonville Development Center (JDC), a facility that cares for developmentally challenged residents whose lives will be seriously impacted by its closing. The Center maintains a solid certification record and continues to be in good standing with the federal government.

The estimated savings projections for the closing of this important facility remain questionable. Residents will continue to require care covered by the State of Illinois, and critical support staff would need to be trained and paid. The state has an obligation to provide quality care to the most vulnerable members of our community.

I contend that the JDC has enormous potential for being the center of a consolidation of similar facilities, rather than becoming a shuttered campus. There is a viable proposal to utilize JDC as a centrally located facility that can care for individuals that have not been able to transition to community settings. As the developmental centers close throughout the state, JDC can ensure the continued physical and emotional care in a proven quality program. I am told that JDC would also be an excellent facility for evaluation of those who are developmentally disturbed since the staff has the experience required in assessing their special needs. It would seem that the Short Term Assistance Program would be a valuable component to the state's new community placement. The state's recent multi-million dollar investment in the JDC property would make this proposal worth serious consideration.

As such, I ask that a full and fair review be conducted. It is my expectation that such an assessment will prove the Center's value is crucial to the JDC residents and to Morgan County, the surrounding region and the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,



Aaron Schock
Member of Congress

AIS/cm/bb