

October 16, 2013

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

RECEIVED

OCT 18 2013

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Alexian Brothers Medical Center Project 13-062

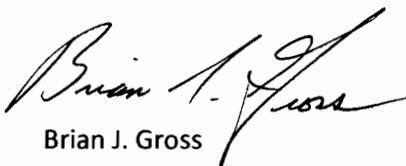
Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing this letter in support of the above planned project at Alexian Brothers Medical Center to operate a Psychiatric Unit within the hospital. As an operator of a 190 bed Skilled Nursing Facility within three miles of the hospital, my patients have experienced frequent delays in accessing inpatient mental health programming within this community, including the Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital (ABBHH), primarily due to limited bed capacity. There have been many occasions where patients suffering from acute or emergency mental health conditions within my facility have had to wait for a psychiatric bed to become available in order to access appropriate care.

Having a Psychiatric unit within the confines of the Alexian Brothers Medical Center would expedite mental health services for patients whom are first transported to the emergency room and then later to a psychiatric hospital when a bed does become available. Frequently, patients have had to wait in the emergency room or on a medical unit until a bed becomes available.

The reputation of Alexian Brothers Behavior Health Hospital is superb. I speak from personal experience where a family member utilized and benefited from, the professional and caring environment at ABBHH. There is a tremendous need for high quality inpatient psychiatric programs within this community. Based upon my professional and personal experience with the care and services currently being provided by the Alexian Brothers Health System, I believe the community would benefit greatly if this project were approved.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Gross
Senior Administrator