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February 6, 2014

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

**RECEIVED**

FEB 19 2014

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

RE: Letter of Support – Holy Cross Hospital Proposed Psychiatry Unit – Project 13-076

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing in strong support of the application of the Mount Sinai Health System to open a fifty bed inpatient Psychiatric Unit at Holy Cross Hospital on the Southwest side of Chicago. As you are aware, there is a significant shortage of mental health care facilities within the Holy Cross Hospital service area, and this development will help to increase access to inpatient psychiatric services there.

For many years, Sinai Health System has addressed the mental health needs of the communities it serves, including Medicaid patients and the uninsured, with high quality inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services. As part of the Sinai system, Holy Cross Hospital will greatly benefit from the expertise of the Sinai Health System and provide valuable mental health services to the Southwest side of Chicago.

Arranging for and obtaining a bed for a patient in need of psychiatric services usually involves a time consuming process and patients are often made to wait for many hours or even days, to receive the inpatient placement they need. Additionally, a significant number of people that reside in the communities surrounding Holy Cross Hospital will now be covered by the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, and service capacity will need to expand to handle the additional patients.

By establishing inpatient psychiatric services at Holy Cross Hospital, Sinai Health System will be providing critical and accessible treatment for patients and their families in the surrounding community. I strongly urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Planning Board to approve this much needed service in order to facilitate greater care for the mentally ill in my congressional and beyond. If I can be of further assistance on this matter, please contact Orlando Jones, Jr., in my office at 202-225-4372 or at [orlando.jones@mail.house.gov](mailto:orlando.jones@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

[www.house.gov/rush](http://www.house.gov/rush)

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