



RODERICK T. SAWYER

**CITY OF CHICAGO
COUNCIL CHAMBER**

ALDERMAN, 6TH WARD
8001 S. KING DR.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60619
TELEPHONE (773)-635-0006
FAX (773)-891-5679
RODERICK.SAWYER@cityofchicago.org

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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
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COUNCIL CHAMBER

CITY HALL-ROOM 200
121 NORTH LA SALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
TELEPHONE 312-744-0670

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

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JUL 30 2014

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

There is a shortage of Acute Mental Illness hospital beds in the communities nearby Holy Cross Hospital, Sinai Health System has asked for the authority to open a 24 bed inpatient Psychiatric Unit at Holy Cross to add to existing outpatient psychiatric services.

My constituents often experience significant difficulty in accessing behavioral health services, especially inpatient psychiatric care. Placement of emergency patients requiring inpatient behavioral health treatment frequently requires excessively long waiting times. Securing an available inpatient bed often places extraordinary strain on patients, families and emergency department staff and often law enforcement officers. As Holy Cross Hospital is the only hospital in a very large and densely populated area, it has one of the busiest emergency departments in the state and serves a very large Medicaid uninsured population.

For many years, Sinai Health System has addressed the mental health needs of the communities it serves with high quality inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services.

By establishing inpatient psychiatric services at Holy Cross Hospital, Sinai Health System will be providing critical, greatly needed and accessible treatment for patients and their families from the communities served. I believe that residents of the 6th Ward would benefit from inpatient behavioral health services at Holy Cross Hospital.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Roderick T. Sawyer
Alderman, 6th Ward