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**COMMITTEES:**  
APPROPRIATIONS I  
EDUCATION  
ENVIRONMENT  
HUMAN SERVICES  
STATE GOVERNMENT &  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

**JULIE A. MORRISON**

STATE SENATOR • 29<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

Ms. Kathryn J. Olson  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project No. 14-006

Dear Chairwoman Olson:

I am writing to express my support for the campus revitalization project being undertaken by Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital (NLFH), which includes constructing a replacement hospital on the current hospital site. Also, I respectfully urge the Health Facilities Services and Review Board (Review Board) to approve a permit for the project.

NLFH has served the greater Lake County community for more than a century. The hospital began serving Lake County residents from its current location in 1942. The existing hospital physical plant has outlived its ability to support the evolving demands associated with providing access to timely, quality health care.

The Review Board unanimously approved NLFH's Master Design Permit on September 24, 2013 with no opposition. The project meets IHFPB standards regarding project cost and is substantially compliant with standards regarding size and utilization. The City of Lake Forest has also approved NLFH's Campus Master Land Use Plan.

This project also **affirms NLFH's commitment to serving all Lake County residents regardless of ability to pay.** NLFH's vision is to further expand access to primary and specialty care by bringing nationally recognized physicians and innovative research to the hospital campus. NLFH has also worked to save Lake County's only free clinic (HealthReach) from closing by facilitating a merger with Erie Family Health Centers, a leading federally-qualified health center (FQHC), thus saving the medical home for 6,000 underserved Lake County residents. NLFH and Erie will further expand on this collaboration to bring a new primary care medical residency program as well as a new FQHC site to Lake County, which will bring additional access to primary health care services for the underserved residents of Lake County. Finally, please note that **NLFH is a leading provider of charity care in Lake County** and in 2012 alone provided \$10.2 million in charity care (at cost) - or, 25% of all charity care provided by Lake County hospitals.

In closing, I again express my support for NLFH's application to build a replacement hospital facility. I likewise urge the Board to approve NLFH's application, which will benefit our county and my constituents for decades to come. This is an essential investment in health care for Lake County residents, who will be able to strongly benefit from the top-tier quality of the physicians, nurses and the entire health care team at NLFH.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Morrison".

Julie Morrison  
29<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

**RECEIVED**

**FEB 20 2014**

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**



LAKE FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

RECEIVED

February 18, 2014

FEB 20 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Kathryn J. Olson, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project No. 14-006 - Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital

Dear Chairwoman Olson,

As Fire Chief of the City of Lake Forest, I am writing to express the City's full support for the campus revitalization project at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital (NLFH) from a life safety perspective. This project includes construction of a replacement hospital on the current hospital site, traffic circulation and infrastructure improvements, and overall enhancements to the campus. I respectfully urge the Health Facilities Services and Review Board (Review Board) to approve a permit for the project.

My department has had the privilege of being involved in early discussions as the hospital team has developed and refined plans for the revitalized campus. The planned improvements to access, on-site circulation, and the hospital facility itself are commendable and will significantly improve the safety aspects of the hospital campus over what exists today. The hospital building itself will be state-of-the-art and in full compliance with building and Life Safety Codes. The design of the emergency room access and the ambulance bays have taken into account the experience and expertise of the City's Fire Department as well as our "day-to-day" experience. Finally, the access enhancements to the hospital campus, some of which are already complete and in operation, will allow firefighters and paramedics to more efficiently and effectively serve residents from the Lake Forest community and beyond.

Notably, the Lake Forest Fire Department does not just serve the residents of our community. Our department, through mutual aid agreements, serves residents, employees, and people traveling through Lake County on a daily basis. Major thoroughfares, the Tollway, and Routes 41 and 60, travel through Lake Forest along with heavily used railroad lines supporting both commuter and freight traffic. We rely on NLFH to be a partner in responding to any emergency situations that arise and with its enhanced facilities, the response, and support we together will be able to provide, will be greatly enhanced.

The existing hospital facility has outlived its useful life and presents challenges today. As Fire Chief and speaking on behalf of paramedics and firefighters serving Lake Forest and the surrounding areas in Lake County, I urge your Board to approve the application from NLFH in support of construction of a replacement hospital and revitalization of the campus.

Thank you for your service and for your favorable consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey B. Howell

Jeffrey B. Howell
Fire Chief, City of Lake Forest

