

Illinois Continuing Care Residents Association

2004 Audubon Avenue, MC-533

Naperville, Illinois 60563-5336



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APR 20 2016

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Michael Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
ATTN: Courtney R. Avery, Administrator
Re: Opposition to Project No: 16-002
Transitional Care of Fox Valley

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am the President of the Illinois Continuing Care Residents Association (ILCCRA) and am writing on behalf of our Board of Directors. ILCCRA is a newly formed 501c4 Illinois corporation, and our mission is to represent the interests of CCRC **residents** throughout the state. While we advocate for adequate health care facilities throughout Illinois, we are also aware that an over saturation of such facilities can result in a decrease, rather than an increase, in the quality of care that patients receive. We appreciate your role in assuring that such saturation and consequent decrease in the quality of service does not occur, and consequently are writing this letter to encourage you **not** to approve **Project #16-002 (Transitional Care of Fox Valley)**.

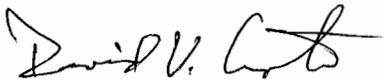
Our informal research and inquiries found that the geographic areas in reasonably close proximity to the proposed facility are currently served by at least 40 facilities providing essentially the same services as the new site.

Our informal inquiries also show that many, if not all, of the current providers could accept additional patients. **Our concerns are particularly heightened in light of the new Medicare rules that will go into effect in 2018.** As we understand the new rules, hospitals will have strong financial incentives to discharge patients directly home whenever possible rather into post acute care facilities. As you already know, during the past several years, the length time patients stay in post hospital nursing and rehabilitation facilities has decreased significantly, and with the new Medicare "bundling" rules, those stays will probably be reduced even further. This reality only heightens our concerns about a saturation of skilled nursing facilities and empty beds.

We at ILCCRA will advocate strongly for additional transitional care facilities in areas where they are needed, but will also oppose the approval of facilities in areas already adequately served. We believe that financially strong facilities are much more likely to provide quality care than are those that are in different degrees of financial stress. We ourselves have been executives in organizations (public and private) undergoing financial difficulties. We know of the salary increases that cannot be made and the resulting decreases in staff morale, the older equipment that can be made to last "just one more year", and the various improvements that could be made but will have to wait.

With all of these factors in mind, we encourage you **not to grant approval** to Project **No. 16-002, Transitional Care of Fox Valley.**

Sincerely,



Dr. David V. Curtis, PhD, President on behalf of Board of Directors:

John Baber, Jack Snader, James Snodgrass, Jane Zimmerman, Leila Zweibel

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