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October 14, 2008

Trevor Clatfelter
Deputy Director
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
VIA FAX: 217-782-3513

Dear Mr. Clatfelter:

We indicated last week that the Illinois Department of Human Services was moving to implement the closure of the Howe Developmental Center in violation of the State Facilities Closure Act. It is our understanding that DHS is similarly violating the Act in relation to the Tinley Park closure. We again urge you to enforce the Act by directing DHS to cease these actions.

The State Facilities Closure Act (30 ILCS 608 section 5-10 d) states: "No action may be taken to implement the recommendation for closure of a State facility until 50 days after the filing of any required recommendation." Yet DHS is issuing a Request for Information related to this closure. The RFI is a first step to preparing a Request for Proposal to identify a management firm to run the replacement hospital.

We urge you to communicate with DHS quickly regarding the illegality of this and any other actions aimed at implementing the closure. Please keep us informed of the steps you have taken to enforce the Act.

Sincerely,

Anne Irving
Director of Public Policy