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**ROBYN GABEL**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 18<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

Committees:

Appropriations Human Services  
Environment & Energy  
Health & Healthcare Disparities  
Insurance  
Mass Transit

Christine Walker  
Chasing Hope Foundation  
399 Ridge Avenue  
Winnetka, IL 60093

January 14, 2016

Dear Christine,

Over the past year, you have reached out to my chief of staff, Karen McCormick, to learn about the requirements that relevant state agencies have in establishing supportive housing in Illinois.

Last fall Karen and I met with you in my office to review the process the state of Illinois has created in order for the Chasing Hope Foundation to open its first house. This five-step process includes:

- 1) Become a licensed child welfare agency, as required by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), as only licensed child welfare agencies may apply to become a residential provider.
- 2) Once licensed child welfare agency status has been approved, apply to DCFS to become a residential provider to those under the age of 19.
- 3) After receiving approval to become a residential provider, submit all documentation to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) for review, along with a letter from the State Fire Marshall affirming that the residence is "violation-free".
- 4) Once ISBE approves all of the documentation, it then forwards the application to the Illinois Purchase Care Review Board, which establishes a daily rate for all residents.
- 5) This daily rate is then provided to local school districts, which will fund the placement in compliance with a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

As the Chasing Hope Foundation continues to work with the appropriate state authorities, my office remains prepared and willing to offer assistance in navigating the process. Our collective resources are committed to supporting your efforts to create therapeutic and supportive housing for middle and high school students within New Trier Township.

We look forward to seeing the results of your hard work and perseverance.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robyn Habel".

State Representative, 18<sup>th</sup> District