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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD  
BEFORE HEARING OFFICER KAREN HALL

In Re: )  
)  
University of Chicago ) Project No. 10-049  
Cancer Center at Silver )  
Cross Hospital, )  
New Lenox. )

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had and testimony  
taken in accordance with the requirements of the  
Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act on the  
University of Chicago Cancer Center at Silver  
Cross Hospital, New Lenox, Illinois, taken at the  
Village of New Lenox, 1 Veterans Parkway,  
New Lenox, Illinois, on September 10th, 2010, at  
the hour of 10:17 a.m.

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**PRESENT:**

**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD, by  
MS. KAREN HALL,  
Second Floor  
525 West Jefferson Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62761  
(217) 782-3516**

**appeared as Public Hearing Officer.**

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1 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Good morning.

2 My name is Karen Hall. I'm with the Illinois  
3 Department of Public Health. I'm here today to  
4 conduct a public hearing on the proposed project  
5 known as 10-049, University of Chicago --

6 THE AUDIENCE: We can't hear.

7 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Is this better?

8 THE AUDIENCE: Yes.

9 HEARING OFFICER HALL: I'll start over.

10 My name is Karen Hall. I'm with the  
11 Illinois Department of Public Health. I'm here  
12 today to conduct a public hearing on the proposed  
13 project known as 10-049, the University of  
14 Chicago Cancer Center at Silver Cross Hospital,  
15 New Lenox, Illinois.

16 As per the rules of the Illinois Health  
17 Facilities and Services Review Board, I would  
18 like to read the legal notice into the record.

19 "In accordance with the requirements of the  
20 Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act, notice  
21 is given of receipt to establish an outpatient  
22 cancer treatment center, Project 10-049, the  
23 University of Chicago Cancer Center at Silver Cross  
24 Hospital, New Lenox, Illinois. Applicants:

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1 Silver Cross Hospital and Medical Centers, Silver  
2 Cross Health Systems, the University of Chicago  
3 Medical Center, and UCMC/SCH Oncology, JV, LLC.

4 "The Applicants propose to establish an  
5 outpatient cancer treatment center in 19,675 gross  
6 square feet of leased space located at  
7 1850 Silver Cross Boulevard, New Lenox. The  
8 project cost is \$21,621,411.

9 "Consideration by the State Board has been  
10 tentatively scheduled for the October 26th, 2010,  
11 State Board meeting. A public hearing is to be  
12 held by the Illinois Department of Public Health  
13 pursuant to the Illinois Health Facilities  
14 Planning Act.

15 "The hearing is open to the public and will  
16 afford an opportunity for parties at interest of  
17 present written and/or verbal comment relevant to  
18 the project. All allegations or assertions  
19 should be relevant to the need of the proposed  
20 project and be supported with two copies of  
21 documentation or materials that are printed or  
22 typed on paper sized 8 1/2 by 11.

23 "A copy of the application may be reviewed  
24 at the Illinois Health Facilities and Services

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1 Review Board office. To obtain a copy of the  
2 application, phone the office for details and  
3 copying fees at (217) 782-3516.

4 "Any person wanting a public hearing on the  
5 proposed project must submit a written request to  
6 such hearing to the Illinois health facility and  
7 services review board at 525 West Jefferson  
8 Street, Second Floor, Springfield, Illinois  
9 62761, phone number (217) 782-3516.

10 "If you have not done so, please sign in by  
11 using the appropriate registration forms. One  
12 form is for individuals who want to provide  
13 testimony in support of the project. Another  
14 form is for individuals to provide testimony who  
15 oppose the project. The last form is for  
16 individuals to register their attendance who do  
17 not wish to testify.

18 "To ensure that the Illinois Health  
19 Facilities and Services Review Board's public  
20 hearings protect the privacy and maintain the  
21 confidentiality of an individual's health  
22 information, covered entities as defined by the  
23 Health Insurance Portability Act of 1996, such as  
24 facilities, hospital providers, health plans, and

1 health care clearinghouses submitting oral or  
2 written testimony that discloses protected health  
3 information of individuals shall have a valid  
4 written authorization from that individual. The  
5 authorization shall allow the covered entity to  
6 share the individual's protected health  
7 information at this hearing.

8 "Those of you who came with prepared text  
9 for your testimony may choose to submit that text  
10 without giving testimony. However, if you are  
11 giving oral testimony, please be as brief as  
12 possible" -- because we have standing room.

13 "As per legal notice, I would appreciate  
14 two copies of your testimony. When you make your  
15 presentation, please give the Court Reporter the  
16 spelling of your complete name.

17 "If there's a chief spokesperson for the  
18 Applicants, we would like that individual to make  
19 the first presentation. The remaining testimony  
20 will be taken in the order of the names on the  
21 registers. Please hold all of your questions  
22 until testimony is presented."

23 Since we have lots of people, we're going  
24 to try to limit this to maybe two minutes per

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1 person. The Applicants will probably speak a  
2 little longer. They're going to go first.

3 The first speaker will be Paul Pawlak.

4 MR. PAWLAK: Well, good morning,  
5 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Paul Pawlak,  
6 and I'm president and CEO of Silver Cross  
7 Hospital.

8 I would like to thank the Illinois Health  
9 Facilities and Services Review Board for the  
10 opportunity to speak this morning about this  
11 important project addressing one of the most  
12 serious and feared diagnoses a person can  
13 receive. And, of course, I'm talking about  
14 cancer.

15 The University of Chicago Cancer Center at  
16 Silver Cross Hospital is being proposed to help  
17 patients who are coping with this dreaded disease  
18 at a time when they and their families are most  
19 vulnerable and confused.

20 This is an application from two  
21 not-for-profit institutions whose missions are to  
22 provide quality health care. The need for more  
23 cancer services is clearly substantiated by an  
24 estimated 4,800 new diagnoses each year in

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1 Will County. A staggering 70 percent of these  
2 patients needing hospitalization for cancer leave  
3 this community for services. 1,400 people from  
4 our service area are being treated at the  
5 University of Chicago Medical Center in Hyde  
6 Park, Chicago, and many others are seeking care  
7 at other academic hospitals downtown or perhaps  
8 even out of state.

9 As I've read the letters of support that  
10 have been pouring in, I'm astonished by the  
11 stories of disruption and hardship that our  
12 people have endured as they search for services  
13 not available in our community. These are people  
14 searching for expertise and quality care, for new  
15 technologies, for life-saving possibilities from  
16 clinical trials, and for hope.

17 Our proposed solution is to bring this hope  
18 closer to our homes. As a health care provider,  
19 it's our obligation to improve the health of our  
20 community and provide accessible, essential  
21 services to everyone regardless of their ability  
22 to pay. Silver Cross has a long history of doing  
23 just that.

24 Last year the hospital provided \$7.5 million

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1 of charity care. Many of those services were for  
2 cancer patients who desperately needed treatment.

3 Clearly there is overwhelming support for  
4 this application. The room is filled with people  
5 who have taken time out of their busy schedules  
6 to endorse our project.

7 Our Will County executive, Mr. Larry Walsh,  
8 who represents over 750,000 people, has written a  
9 letter of support, as well as Mr. Moustis, our  
10 County Board chairman, who is with us today, and  
11 several other members of the County Board,  
12 including Reverend Brooks, representing  
13 District 8.

14 Our Federal and State elected officials  
15 support this project, including Senator Wilhelmi,  
16 Representative McGuire, and Congresswoman  
17 Halvorson. New Lenox Mayor Baldermann and the  
18 village council support this project.

19 Many members of the Silver Cross medical  
20 staff who best know the needs of cancer patients  
21 also support this application -- over 95 doctors  
22 have signed letters of support to date. But most  
23 importantly it's the outpouring of support from  
24 individuals who have come here today to explain

1           why this project deserves approval. These are  
2           the folks that have been touched by cancer either  
3           personally or through a friend or perhaps a  
4           family member.

5                     This is not the first time Silver Cross has  
6           invested in added services for cancer services.  
7           In fact, the hospital recruited the first  
8           oncologist to the community in 1981 and supported  
9           the startup of that project. I'm referring, of  
10          course, to Dr. Pundaleeka. He's an excellent --  
11          he is a fine physician who has helped many people  
12          with cancer, including my father-in-law, and I'm  
13          certain that he will continue to do so.

14                    Our project will not interfere with his  
15          busy practice. Instead, cancer patients will now  
16          have additional alternatives and the ability to  
17          coordinate their care with physicians from an  
18          academic medical center.

19                    It's not a question of competition, and we  
20          are unwilling to debate who should care for  
21          cancer patients. The choice is a private matter  
22          that an individual makes with consultation from  
23          loved ones and his or her primary care  
24          physicians.

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1 I would like to say that this is an original  
2 project but it's not. Academic medical centers  
3 across the United States are pioneering with  
4 community hospitals to deliver oncology services  
5 locally. Examples include the Dana Farber/Harvard  
6 Cancer Centers in the suburbs of Boston, the  
7 MD Anderson programs throughout the country, and  
8 right here in Illinois Loyola Medical Center's  
9 recent partnership with Central DuPage Hospital.

10 This is the best practice model, and  
11 there's no reason we should not provide the best  
12 to our citizens of Will County. We are proud to  
13 join forces with the University of Chicago  
14 Medical Center and offer what people have been  
15 asking for.

16 Therefore, I respectfully ask the Board to  
17 approve our application.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Ken Sharigian.

21 MR. SHARIGAN: Good morning. My name  
22 is Kenneth Sharigian and that's S-h-a-r-i-g-i-a-n.  
23 I'm delighted to be here this morning.

24 I'm the president of University of Chicago

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1 Medical Center, and I drove 35 miles this morning  
2 to come from Hyde Park to New Lenox. I timed  
3 myself. It was a little less than an hour going  
4 against traffic mostly and it wasn't rush hour.

5 I thought as I was traveling what it would  
6 be like day after day, week after week for a  
7 cancer patient to come to Hyde Park or to Chicago  
8 for treatment, complicating their access, their  
9 convenience, and the overall worry and concern of  
10 themselves and their families.

11 In a very real way, that's what we are here  
12 today to talk about. It's how the University of  
13 Chicago Medical Center in partnership with  
14 Silver Cross Hospital can make life a little  
15 easier for the people of this community who live  
16 in this area who are dealing with this dreaded  
17 disease.

18 As Paul Pawlak mentioned, nearly  
19 5,000 persons in this region will be diagnosed  
20 with some type of cancer in the next year, and  
21 70 percent of those who need inpatient care will  
22 seek that care outside of Will County.

23 We know that about 1400 of those patients  
24 come to see the physicians at the University of

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1 Chicago Medical Center in our Hyde Park campus.  
2 Those patients choose us for our well-known  
3 expertise, for our technologies, for life-saving  
4 therapies, and when there are no good standard  
5 options for care for a chance to enroll in  
6 experimental clinical trials.

7 We're here today to ask permission to bring  
8 those services closer to those patients and their  
9 families to provide our cancer care in a familiar  
10 place close to your homes in this community.

11 There are only two institutions in the  
12 entire state of Illinois designated as  
13 comprehensive cancer centers by the National  
14 Cancer Institute. The University of Chicago  
15 Medical Center is one of them.

16 There are three Illinois institutions or  
17 cancer programs ranked in the top 50 nationwide  
18 by U.S. News and World Report. The University of  
19 Chicago Medical Center tops that list by a wide  
20 margin I'm proud to say. No other Illinois  
21 program is ranked. We have 353 clinical trials  
22 currently open to cancer patients. No other  
23 Illinois institution comes close to that number.

24 Why do we attract these honors? Because of

1           our faculty physicians. Five University of  
2           Chicago cancer specialists are members of the  
3           distinguished Institute of Medicine. Four have  
4           served as president of the American Society of  
5           Clinical Oncologists, the leading cancer care  
6           society in our country. University of Chicago  
7           cancer specialists have received, among other  
8           honors, the Presidential Medal of Honor, the  
9           Lasker Award, the MacArthur "genius" prize, and  
10          the Nobel Prize.

11                    If you have cancer, you want people like  
12                   ours on our team and on your team. Here's one  
13                   example you may have heard about.

14                    In Chicago there's a world-famous chef who  
15                   was diagnosed in past years with -- about  
16                   three years ago with tongue cancer, a devastating  
17                   disease, devastating especially for a chef who  
18                   needs to taste and smell to carry out his chosen  
19                   profession.

20                    That person fortunately had resources and  
21                   flew to New York to see other experts at Memorial  
22                   Sloan Kettering. He flew to Houston to visit  
23                   MD Anderson. He went to many other famous cancer  
24                   centers.

1                   Along his journey he saw doctors who told  
2                   him about a team at Chicago that could help him  
3                   recover and keep his tongue. They helped him  
4                   connect with us, and I'm happy to report he  
5                   followed that advice. Now he's in full remission  
6                   and has been cancer free for almost two years.  
7                   He still has a fully functional tongue, and he  
8                   still runs one of Chicago's top restaurants,  
9                   which I'm proud to say I frequent often.

10                  That's the kind of hope and care we want to  
11                  bring to Silver Cross and to this community.  
12                  Later today you'll hear from Dan Haraf, one of  
13                  our fine physicians, and he will tell you more  
14                  about the specific cancer treatment advantages we  
15                  can bring.

16                  The University has performed groundbreaking  
17                  medical research, some of which changes medical  
18                  care worldwide, but here's a little known  
19                  finding:

20                  In 2003 one of our research teams published  
21                  an interesting study. They followed patients  
22                  with head and neck cancer, a program that  
23                  attracts patients from all over the country.  
24                  They discovered that patients who traveled at

1           least 15 miles for care had 1/3rd the risk of  
2           dying from that disease during the study period  
3           than those who sought care closer to home. Race  
4           didn't matter; income didn't matter. Yet, for  
5           every 10 miles traveled, that a patient traveled  
6           for care, the risk of death increased by  
7           3.3 percent.

8                   Obviously, traveling doesn't cure cancer,  
9           but what it does say, what it does suggest is  
10          that patients who explore their therapeutic  
11          options, expend their resources to receive those  
12          therapies fare better than those who go to the  
13          closest place just because it's close. Even if  
14          their diseases and treatments are the same,  
15          quality trumps convenience.

16                   We would like to make convenience available  
17          in Will County. We know that 70 percent of  
18          patients from this part of Illinois have long  
19          been making the choice of -- 1400 of them coming  
20          to the University of Chicago. We also know it's  
21          not the driving time, the inconveniences that  
22          makes the difference. It's the quality of care.

23                   We are convinced that quality can join  
24          hands with convenience. Our goal is to work

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1 together with the teams at Silver Cross to bring  
2 that level of quality to you and to do so  
3 conveniently.

4 So if you'll let us do the driving, we'd  
5 like to do that.

6 Thank you for your attention.

7 (Applause.)

8 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Allison Costello.

9 MS. COSTELLO: Hi, I'm  
10 Allison Costello.

11 I was diagnosed with breast cancer in  
12 2005. Of course, it was a big thing, and, you  
13 know, my husband went on the Internet, and he  
14 went ahead and found that the University of  
15 Chicago is the best place to be for treatment.

16 So for six months I did do the travel. I  
17 got the best treatment I could possibly get, and  
18 here it is five years later, I'm still cancer  
19 free, I feel fabulous, and it would be such a  
20 convenience to have this closer to home.

21 The travel was hard. I have kids that are,  
22 you know, in school, and they needed me home for  
23 them when they got home from school. To have  
24 that convenience of it being so much closer would

1 be just a wonderful thing.

2 (Applause.)

3 HEARING OFFICER HALL: John Leach.

4 MR. LEACH: I just want to talk about  
5 growth a little bit. I was Will County or still  
6 am Will County's largest home builder. I built  
7 5,000 houses in 17 subdivisions, and I want to  
8 tell you that the west side of Joliet is not  
9 going to expand like it did in the past. When  
10 you get west of Ridge Road, you're in a lot of  
11 land problems.

12 I firmly believe that there is going to be  
13 more growth in New Lenox than there ever has been  
14 in the past. You're all lucky I can see into the  
15 future. I shut my business down in 2006.  
16 Everybody said, "Why are you doing that?"  
17 Because I could tell them I can smell trouble. I  
18 started it up again last month, and I've got five  
19 houses to build already, and I see a great future  
20 for New Lenox.

21 I lived in Cherry Hill all my life. My  
22 wife had cancer. All winter we went in and out  
23 of Silver Cross Hospital. I can't say enough  
24 good things about Silver Cross Hospital. It just

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1 can't be said.

2 I traveled all over the world with the best  
3 hotels all over the world, and Silver Cross  
4 treats you better than the fancy hotels do. I  
5 cannot say enough good things. Even the food's  
6 good in the cafeteria.

7 (Applause.)

8 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Daniel Haraf.

9 DR. HARAF: Thank you for this  
10 opportunity to speak. My name is Daniel Haraf.  
11 I'm one of your neighbors. I live in Palos Park,  
12 not Hyde Park or downtown.

13 I am a professor and cancer physician and  
14 medical director for radiation oncology services  
15 at the University of Chicago Medical Center. I  
16 ask that the Review Board approve this project on  
17 behalf of my patients.

18 As you heard, in 2009 1400 patients with a  
19 diagnosis of cancer came to the University of  
20 Chicago from this area. These patients traveled  
21 30, 40, 50 miles or more through heavy traffic,  
22 unfamiliar inner-city neighborhoods, a trip that  
23 can take up to two hours each way if you go with  
24 the traffic. Some patients had to do that every

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1 day for six to seven weeks for therapy and pay  
2 Chicago prices to park at the University. Why do  
3 people suffering with cancer do this when there  
4 are oncologists, radiation equipment, and  
5 hospitals with ample parking in the immediate  
6 area? Let me explain.

7 We bring access to a comprehensive cancer  
8 center. As noted, there are only two in Chicago,  
9 but there are only 40 in the entire United  
10 States. In order to achieve this designation,  
11 you must meet stringent criteria and be certified  
12 by the National Cancer Institute.

13 According to the NCI -- and I quote --  
14 "Many organizations that are dedicated exclusively  
15 to health care call themselves comprehensive  
16 cancer centers based on their own self-  
17 assessment. However, the term 'comprehensive' as  
18 used by the NCI requires more than state-of-the-art  
19 care and services and includes a strong research  
20 base interactive with a wide spectrum of  
21 prevention, care, education, information, and  
22 dissemination activities that broadly serve  
23 communities, regions of the country, and often  
24 the nation."

1                   What does that mean to the patient? It  
2                   means deep expertise and vast experience in every  
3                   type of cancer care. It means access to a broad  
4                   spectrum of clinical trials. The University has  
5                   long-standing, widely recognized, and federally  
6                   funded programs in Phases I, II, and III trials  
7                   run by national organizations with a long track  
8                   record of scientific accomplishment.

9                   We also offer access to clinical trials  
10                  developed by our clinicians and scientists that  
11                  are available only at the University of Chicago.  
12                  All of our trial undergo vigorous internal  
13                  reviews by three separate committees to make sure  
14                  they are safe for patients, scientifically sound,  
15                  well designed, and actually worthy of patient  
16                  participation.

17                 We also offer documented results. We  
18                 review most disease sites for toxicity and care.  
19                 These results are published in scientific  
20                 journals and presented at national meetings. We  
21                 can tell a patient what to expect based on our  
22                 results and provide a published reference.

23                 We bring access to the medical, surgical,  
24                 and radiation oncologists who not only read the

1           medical textbooks; they write them. We are part  
2           of the medical school faculty charged with  
3           creating new knowledge and training the next  
4           generation of physicians.

5                     For myself, radiation therapy is a highly  
6           technical specialty that depends on close  
7           interaction between physicians and medical  
8           physicists. Unlike a typical one-person  
9           radiation practice, we have 12 faculty physicians  
10          with special expertise in individual cancer sites.

11                    We can bring that unique expertise to this  
12          community. I and my colleagues will be available  
13          as a resource. Information can be electronically  
14          transferred to the University where the experts  
15          in that disease site can help design and plan  
16          radiation treatment.

17                    Most radiation facilities have at best one  
18          Ph.D. physicist. Our department is staffed with  
19          six Ph.D.s in medical physics, and we run the  
20          country's leading training programs in this area.  
21          We also have two MS and three dosimetrists. What  
22          does this mean? It means we can devote resources  
23          of up to 100 hours or more to plan  
24          difficult cases.

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1                   I hope you will allow this project to  
2                   continue. Stopping this project will not stop  
3                   people from coming to me at the university.  
4                   Letting this project go forward will give cancer  
5                   patients access to the care they want and deserve  
6                   much closer to home. It is the right thing to  
7                   do; it is the humanitarian thing to do.

8                   Thank you.

9   (Applause.)

10                                       HEARING OFFICER HALL: Dr. Asaad.

11                                       DR. SALWA ASAAD: My name is  
12                   Dr. Salwa Asaad. I'm a physician. My specialty  
13                   is radiation oncology.

14                                       I have been in private practice for over  
15                   25 years, almost 30 years at Hoffman Cancer  
16                   Center in Joliet. This is a freestanding  
17                   facility in an office building across the street  
18                   from Silver Cross and about 2 miles away from the  
19                   proposed University of Chicago at Silver Cross  
20                   Hospital in New Lenox.

21                                       When I started my practice over 25 years  
22                   ago, Silver Cross Hospital administration refused  
23                   to spend capital to buy equipment needed to  
24                   establish a radiation therapy department and

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1 asked me to buy the equipment on my own and that  
2 they would build up a complete room to house an  
3 accelerator in an office building across the  
4 street from the hospital and lease me the space.

5 I went to Springfield to obtain certificate  
6 of exemption, took a huge financial risk to  
7 finance multimillion dollars worth of equipment.  
8 I established for the community a new radiation  
9 oncology service which Silver Cross never did and  
10 still does not provide.

11 Administration at Silver Cross Hospital is  
12 telling me that I shall not be allowed to treat  
13 patients in their new cancer center and also told  
14 me that, "You are the past and we are looking for  
15 the future."

16 Now they are asking me to vacate the premises  
17 and remove my equipment by April 2012 before the  
18 term of my lease that expires December 2012.

19 After December 31st I shall be moving to a  
20 different location in the area, and the Hoffman  
21 Cancer Center will continue to open its doors to  
22 treat patients.

23 Over the years I was joined by another  
24 board-certified oncologist, and I replaced and

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1 upgraded my equipment a few times. Now I have  
2 the most advanced linear accelerator with  
3 state-of-the-art image guided radiation therapy,  
4 IGRT, and intensity modulated radiation therapy,  
5 CT scan simulation, 3D computer, and high-dose  
6 radiation therapy. I also perform surgery and  
7 prostate seed implants. The center employs  
8 two physicians, four highly qualified radiation  
9 therapy technicians, and two receptionists.

10 I have developed an excellent rapport and  
11 established a long-standing relationship with  
12 several faculty physicians at the university  
13 medical centers in Chicago including Northwestern  
14 University, Rush Medical Center, Loyola  
15 University, and University of Chicago. Those  
16 physicians have been referring patients who live  
17 in Will County for treatment at the Hoffman  
18 Cancer Center.

19 Patients do not need to travel to the city  
20 of Chicago or anywhere else to get the most  
21 advanced radiation therapy treatment and the best  
22 care available. There are also several cancer  
23 treatment centers in Will County and within few  
24 miles from New Lenox. These are Joliet Hematology

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1 Oncology Associates in Joliet about six miles  
2 away, Alpha Med under construction in Tinley Park  
3 about 10 miles away, St. Joseph Hospital's  
4 medical center about 8 miles away, Advanced  
5 Radiology Associates in Joliet about 8 miles way.  
6 Obviously, there's no shortage of these kinds of  
7 services in the New Lenox/Will County area.

8 Approving this project would be a totally  
9 unjustified expense and an obvious duplication of  
10 service, especially at a time when the Federal  
11 government and State are trying to trim down  
12 unnecessary medical expense. We also believe  
13 that this project, if approved, would actually  
14 increase the overall cost of medical care in the  
15 community resulting from oversaturation and  
16 overuse of services.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Excuse me.  
20 Can you spell your name for the Court Reporter,  
21 please.

22 DR. SALWA ASAAD: Salwa, S-a-l-w-a,  
23 and the last name A-s-a-a-d.

24 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Dr. Farouk.

1 DR. FAROUK ASAAD: Good morning. My  
2 name is Dr. Farouk Asaad, A-s-a-a-d, F-a-r-o-u-k.

3 I am a retired family physician and cancer  
4 survivor. In 2006 I was diagnosed with rectal  
5 cancer. I, being a physician with medical  
6 background and my life was on the line, had to  
7 make sure that I received the best treatment  
8 available. My focus for research for a surgeon  
9 specializing in colorectal cancer was based on  
10 the best qualified surgeon, not on an institution  
11 or a university hospital.

12 After considering all my options and after  
13 consultations with oncologists at Northwestern  
14 University, who ironically recommended that I get  
15 my treatment, my radiation therapy treatment at  
16 the Hoffman Cancer Center in Joliet. This is a  
17 private family physician -- I mean freestanding  
18 facility across from Silver Cross Hospital. I  
19 opted to receive my treatment there.

20 Needless to say, I did the right choice.  
21 I'm still here. I was treated with the most  
22 advanced state-of-the-art equipment and cared for  
23 by highly knowledgeable, friendly, compassionate  
24 staff. My point is that advanced equipment

1 matters, but so do compassionate personnel.

2 I'm not against university hospitals. They  
3 are all fine institutions, but a qualified  
4 physician is not synonymous with a university  
5 physician.

6 The main incentive for a university  
7 hospital to migrate to the suburbs and to get  
8 affiliated with a local community hospital is to  
9 expand patient base to compensate for gradual  
10 shrinking of the number of patients seen in the  
11 city where several university centers compete for  
12 the same patient base.

13 It must be good for the community. Don't  
14 kid yourselves, don't kid yourselves about that,  
15 don't kid yourselves into believing that just  
16 because it is a university hospital it must be  
17 good for the community. Just the opposite could  
18 be true.

19 There are accumulating statistics that show  
20 there is a definite and significant correlation  
21 between the increase in the overall cost of  
22 medical care in the community with the  
23 introduction of services offered by university  
24 medical centers into the community resulting in

1           oversaturation, overuse of services.

2                       In Will County there are several well-  
3           equipped cancer treatment centers staffed with  
4           highly qualified professionals comparative to any  
5           university medical center in the Chicago area.  
6           The main reason for the requirement to apply for  
7           a certificate of need is to make sure that there  
8           is no duplication of that service and that there  
9           is no actual need for the service. If there is  
10          no need, there should be no certificate of need.

11                      The Review Board should not make an  
12          exception just because it's a university  
13          hospital. This would invalidate the purpose of  
14          CON regulation, the certificate of need  
15          regulation.

16                      The argument that a university hospital  
17          will provide much needed research is not a valid  
18          argument and is too simplistic and naive because  
19          research is done all the time at centers in the  
20          community in corroboration with university  
21          hospitals. You do not need to spend tens of  
22          millions of dollars on a new project that's not  
23          needed.

24                      It's my hope that this committee will find

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1           this project a redundant duplication of services  
2           and that approving it would be a fiscally  
3           irresponsible waste of public funds with the real  
4           possibility of increasing the overall medical  
5           cost to the community.

6                     Thank you.

7                                     (Applause.)

8                             HEARING OFFICER HALL: Jim Moustis.

9                             AUDIENCE MEMBER: Mr. Moustis had to  
10           leave. Do you want me to read them or just  
11           submit copies?

12                             HEARING OFFICER HALL: You can. But  
13           from now on can we be under two minutes? If we  
14           need everybody to speak and be out of here at the  
15           given time, we need to be under two minutes  
16           speaking.

17                             AUDIENCE MEMBER: We're willing just  
18           to submit the written testimony.

19                             HEARING OFFICER HALL: Kathy Casey.

20                             MS. CASEY: Good morning. The last  
21           name is spelled C-a-s-e-y.

22                             Good morning. My name is Kathleen Casey,  
23           and I've been a resident of New Lenox since 1986.  
24           My husband and I raised our two wonderful

1 children in this community. They attended  
2 Lincoln-Way High School, went to college,  
3 married, and returned with their spouses and our  
4 grandchildren. They are also raising their  
5 families in New Lenox. So we have a long history  
6 in this community.

7 I'm proud of my community, and I appreciate  
8 this opportunity to speak to our elected  
9 officials regarding an issue that has impacted my  
10 life profoundly.

11 A little bit of my family background and  
12 why I'm here in support of the Silver Cross  
13 Hospital and University of Chicago is because of  
14 the cancer that has impacted my family. I'm sure  
15 everyone in this room has family members who have  
16 been touched by this insidious disease. It knows  
17 no socioeconomic boundaries, gender biases, or  
18 adheres to any logical patterns.

19 Fourteen years ago my youngest sister  
20 Francine, who was only 34, was diagnosed with  
21 breast cancer. Several months later my other  
22 sister Eileen was diagnosed with breast cancer,  
23 Stage III. Two years later my oldest sister  
24 Maureen was diagnosed with breast cancer, and

1 two months after her I was diagnosed with breast  
2 cancer.

3 Even though we all received the dreaded  
4 words "You have cancer," we have been blessed and  
5 fortunate because we are all here and still alive  
6 to tell our story. And I believe part of the  
7 reason for that success was the wonderful care  
8 and early treatment we received upon our  
9 diagnoses at the University of Chicago.

10 We were provided with appointments with  
11 radiologists, oncologists, research specialists,  
12 hematologists, and on and on. We felt extremely  
13 reassured to be receiving care from world-  
14 renowned specialists in a world-class facility.

15 Several members of my family became part of  
16 a longitudinal study by Dr. Olufunmilayo Olopade  
17 at the University of Chicago, and Dr. Olopade, if  
18 you do not know, was the recipient of the 2005  
19 MacArthur Fellowship award, also known as the  
20 "Genius Grant," for her work on innovative  
21 clinical practices for breast cancer research  
22 both in the U.S. and abroad. Her accomplishments  
23 are world renowned.

24 It is this caliber of researcher and

1           clinician that is so desperately needed in our  
2           own community. A partnership between Silver  
3           Cross and University of Chicago here in New Lenox  
4           will fulfill this need to bring medial fellows  
5           who show promise for important future advances  
6           based on a proven track record of significant  
7           accomplishments.

8                   I recently completed a 10-year study with  
9           Dr. Olopade's clinical group and was immensely  
10          reassured during that time that should cancer  
11          return to my life, it would be detected early  
12          enough for me to beat it once again.

13                   There were many frustrating times during my  
14          sisters and my treatments. Often we weren't sure  
15          if we would survive the surgeries, chemo therapy,  
16          the radiation treatments, and the follow-up  
17          visits. We didn't know if we would see our  
18          children or our grandchildren grow up.

19                   During the course of our treatment --  
20          during my treatment I was required to undergo  
21          30 daily radiation treatments. This meant I had  
22          to leave work early, I had to drive downtown, and  
23          I had to fight the traffic during rush hour.

24                   One day I was stuck in traffic, and I was

1 told they would fit me in when they could in the  
2 schedule, and it was two hours before I got my  
3 treatment. I was frustrated; I was angry; I was  
4 prepared to stop my treatment. Luckily my family  
5 is more stubborn than I am, and they convinced me  
6 to return the next day.

7 How wonderful it would have been to have a  
8 first-class research facility right in my own  
9 backyard so I could have avoided the traffic  
10 congestion leading to and from the University of  
11 Chicago. That was the most frustrating part of  
12 the time spent with the wonderful physicians,  
13 genetic counselors, was the consuming commute to  
14 and from appointments.

15 I am 56 years old; I have never promoted a  
16 cause which required collecting signatures on  
17 petitions. I feel so strongly about the need to  
18 endorse a University of Chicago and Silver Cross  
19 Hospital partnership that I asked everyone I work  
20 with to sign my petition showing support for this  
21 endeavor. Without hesitation, every one of my  
22 coworkers gladly showed encouragement by signing  
23 their names. The need for a top-notch research  
24 facility in the southwest suburbs of Chicago was



1 here today over 27 years later saying he is the  
2 man. He is the doctor that I would go to -- I  
3 have sent -- my mother has gone, family has gone,  
4 everybody that I knew that had some kind of  
5 problem with cancer has seen Dr. Pundaleeka, and  
6 we all swear by him. And I want to see  
7 Dr. Pundaleeka strive in our community, and  
8 that's what I have to say about being here today  
9 and Dr. Pundaleeka and his associates with Joliet  
10 Oncology and Hematology.

11 (Applause.)

12 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Mr. Sinchak,  
13 can you spell your name for the Court Reporter,  
14 please.

15 MR. SINCHAK: S-i-n-c-h-a-k.

16 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Rosemary Adams.

17 MS. ADAMS: Good morning everyone.

18 My name is Rosemary Adams, R-o-s-e-m-a-r-y,  
19 A-d-a-m-s.

20 Dr. Pundaleeka is a brilliant doctor.  
21 Five years ago I walked into Joliet Oncology and  
22 was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer. If it  
23 weren't for Dr. Pundaleeka and staff, I wouldn't  
24 be speaking to you today.

1                   When I was diagnosed, I thought, "How am I  
2 going to do this? What if I have to go to  
3 Chicago for treatment every day?" I knew there  
4 was no way I could go to Chicago all the time.  
5 Fortunately, Dr. Pundaleeka has a wonderful,  
6 convenient setup. You can go there for  
7 everything. It's all in one place -- pharmacy,  
8 radiation, chemo, PET scan, CAT scan, and even a  
9 wig and prosthesis shop. This is very important,  
10 especially if you have to go to Chicago every day  
11 for treatment or to travel anyplace for  
12 treatment. Most important is how well you are  
13 treated and how efficient the staff is.

14                   In closing, I would like to say  
15 Dr. Pundaleeka takes a bad situation, makes it  
16 easy as he can for the patient. Look at his  
17 record for patients. There were people who went  
18 elsewhere and have been given a month to live,  
19 and after going to Dr. Pundaleeka it's been  
20 10 years and they're still doing well.

21                   Thanks, Dr. Pundaleeka, for making it so  
22 easy to deal with the situation. Thank you for  
23 the convenience of your office, but most  
24 important thank you for the excellent care and

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1           compassion you show each and every patient.

2                       Why do we need anyone else when we already  
3           have established the best cancer care center with  
4           an impeccable record for treatment, care, and  
5           compassion.

6                                       (Applause.)

7                                       HEARING OFFICER HALL: Nathan Keith.

8                                       AUDIENCE MEMBER: He had to leave early.

9                                       HEARING OFFICER HALL: Tim Baldermann.

10                                      MR. BALDERMANN: My name is  
11           Tim Baldermann. I am the mayor of the Village of  
12           New Lenox. More importantly I'm a resident of  
13           this community.

14                                      For those of you in this room who have been  
15           afflicted with cancer. I want to say how  
16           inspiring your stories are and how happy I am  
17           that most of you are doing well. That's the most  
18           important issue is taking care of the patient.

19                                      For those of you who treat patients with  
20           cancer, whether you're affiliated with the  
21           University of Chicago or Joliet Oncology, thank  
22           you for the service you provide, for not only  
23           taking care of patients but patients' families  
24           because that's what this is all about is serving

1           those who have been afflicted with cancer.

2                       This community, obviously, like all  
3           communities, has been afflicted by this terrible  
4           disease. As is evidenced by the success that  
5           we've had with our local Relay for Life, which  
6           raises money for the American Cancer Society,  
7           last year was the first year that New Lenox did  
8           their own Relay for Life and was the Rookie of  
9           the Year for the amount of money that they  
10          raised. This year Relay for Life in New Lenox  
11          alone raised over \$120,000 to help combat this  
12          disease.

13                      I'm hearing opposition. Some of it has to  
14          do with a bottom line, with a business; some of  
15          it has to do with repeat services and I  
16          understand that. But we don't stop something as  
17          simple as restaurants or businesses coming in  
18          because it might impact someone else's business.  
19          Why would we stop something as crucial and as  
20          critical as health care?

21                      This is the philosophy of our village. Not  
22          only as the mayor but speaking on behalf of our  
23          entire village board of trustees, when  
24          Silver Cross Hospital came to me and said, "We

1 want to relocate to your community. Will you  
2 support that," we all collectively, unanimously  
3 supported it.

4 Now, we were criticized by some saying,  
5 "Well, that's several acres that could be built  
6 for retail. You could be bringing in precious  
7 sales tax dollars to your community. Why would  
8 you give that away for a hospital that's not  
9 going to generate that type of revenue?"

10 Well, I understand the bottom line. As a  
11 mayor I certainly understand the bottom line, but  
12 there are things that are more important than  
13 just dollars and cents, and I gladly say build  
14 Silver Cross Hospital and all of the great  
15 quality health care that comes with it including  
16 this cancer center by the University of Chicago.

17 Again, thank you to those at Joliet  
18 Oncology for what you do. However -- and I am  
19 not a doctor, but I believe there's an oath  
20 that's taken, an oath by doctors that says, "Do  
21 no harm." I cannot understand, that being your  
22 primary purpose, why anyone would object to  
23 having another option for so many that are  
24 afflicted right here in this community, right

1 here regionally.

2 So I wholeheartedly, not only as the mayor  
3 of this community, but as a resident support of  
4 University of Chicago and their move here to the  
5 Silver Cross campus.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Tricia Kiefer.

9 MS. KIEFER: My name is Tricia Kiefer,  
10 and I am a four-year cancer survivor. I'm here  
11 to share my personal story.

12 I was diagnosed in August of 2006 with the  
13 worst news of my life, breast cancer. I was only  
14 35 years old at the time. At that time I had no  
15 health insurance, not even a family doctor. My  
16 mom referred me to the free clinic in Joliet so I  
17 could have my golf ball-sized tumor checked out.  
18 The doctor there referred me to Dr. Daniel Vera,  
19 a general surgeon at Silver Cross Hospital.

20 I have to say I was very leery. I didn't  
21 understand Medicaid, and I thought it would mean  
22 that I'd get lower-standard doctors and care.  
23 Dr. Vera took one look at my tumor and said, "I  
24 do believe this is cancer. What can I do for you

1           to help right now?" I just stood there in shock.  
2           I didn't even cry for a few minutes. His words  
3           had just changed my life forever.

4                         Since that day I was told I had cancer  
5           four years ago I have had four separate diagnoses  
6           of cancer that involved nine different surgeries,  
7           38 radiation treatments, 14 cycles of chemo, and  
8           too many blood tests to count. I can honestly  
9           say that I wouldn't have wanted to have been  
10          cared for anywhere else. Every time I had  
11          surgery I received excellent care and aftercare.  
12          Every nurse I've had care for me was really kind  
13          and compassionate.

14                        Since 2006 my cancer has spread to  
15          different parts of my body. I go for my blood  
16          draws, chemo and Zometa treatments at the  
17          outpatient infusion center at Silver Cross. I  
18          absolutely love all of the nurses in that unit.  
19          I've become a regular there, as much as I don't  
20          want to be. They're always happy and upbeat  
21          there, which makes it easier for me to go get my  
22          treatments. I actually look forward to talking  
23          with them. They care about me and I care  
24          about them.

1                   One of them in particular, Neda, is the  
2                   best thing since sliced bread. She is one of  
3                   only 250 nurses in the whole country that is  
4                   trained in nursing as well as oncology. She is  
5                   my favorite because she is so knowledgeable in  
6                   the field I'm receiving treatment for. I can see  
7                   the compassion in her eyes. She just so happens  
8                   to also volunteer her time and started a breast  
9                   cancer support group with others at the hospital.

10                   I didn't get much help from the Cancer  
11                   Society, so I had to search out information and  
12                   get help on my own. Neda suggested I try out the  
13                   support group, and it turned out to be exactly  
14                   what I needed. I have the support now from  
15                   people who understand it best. I look forward to  
16                   going to meetings every month. Finally, I can  
17                   talk to others just like me.

18                   My breast cancer first spread to my lumbar  
19                   spine and neck. The next year it went to the  
20                   T section of my spine and ribs. A month ago it  
21                   spread to my liver. I'm currently receiving  
22                   chemo at the infusion center and so far feel  
23                   great.

24                   When I heard at my last support group

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1 meeting that the University of Chicago Hospital  
2 was going to join Silver Cross in a cancer  
3 center, I was super excited. I know that the  
4 U of C Hospital does the most Phase I testing.  
5 That, combined with the knowledge of all the  
6 doctors and nurses, would be such a great  
7 resource for so many people like me. I can't  
8 think of anything bad that could come of it.

9 I believe that bringing a U of C team here  
10 will allow people who are going north for their  
11 care to stay closer to home. When you are  
12 undergoing cancer treatment, the last thing a  
13 patient needs on top of all the other stresses  
14 involved is to drive long distances for care. I  
15 also think that the University of Chicago's  
16 knowledge, along with the continuing learning  
17 here, can and will benefit so many others like me.

18 I like to think of myself as a veteran in  
19 the field of cancer. I definitely don't know  
20 everything by any means, but I've learned a lot  
21 over the years. I for one am excited about these  
22 two great hospitals coming together to form a  
23 cancer center. It will benefit so many others  
24 like me. I think I will receive even better care

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1 at the new facility, if that's even possible.

2 I'm a perfect example of beating the odds.  
3 My survival has a lot to do with God and my own  
4 strength and determination to live, but it's also  
5 because of the wonderful team of nurses and  
6 doctors and all of their knowledge that's kept  
7 me alive.

8 Please approve the cancer center so others  
9 like me can benefit from getting the care they  
10 need right here. And I would like to add that  
11 Dr. Asaad took great care of me, and I don't  
12 think you're the past -- I think you're the  
13 future.

14 HEARING OFFICER HALL: I'm having  
15 trouble reading this but I think it's --

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: K-i-e-f-e-r.

17 HEARING OFFICER HALL: No, not her.

18 A-m-m or --

19 DR. KHATER: Amin Khater.

20 Good morning. My name Dr. Amin Khater.  
21 I've been in practice in obstetrics/gynecology  
22 since 1968 at Silver Cross Hospital and at  
23 St. Joseph's Hospital. Both institutions are  
24 wonderful.



1 my dentist, misdiagnosed by two dermatologists  
2 and one physician as a psychological problem.

3 When I finally took it upon myself to see  
4 an oral surgeon, I was diagnosed with Stage IV  
5 tongue cancer. Through research a very good  
6 surgeon was found at a big university hospital in  
7 Chicago and my tumor was removed. Great surgeon,  
8 awful hospital.

9 Because my disease had already metastasized  
10 to my lymph nodes, it was chemo and radiation for  
11 me. Many doctors looked at me with defeat in  
12 their eyes. Most were not listening to my  
13 questions and concerns. All were detached.

14 I chose to start my chemo and radiation  
15 treatment at yet another large university  
16 hospital where it was required to be an inpatient  
17 for seven days out of every 14 for eight cycles.

18 Within 48 hours I had shared a room with  
19 two terminal patients. I was required to rinse  
20 my mouth constantly and walk through my  
21 roommate's urine every time I did. After  
22 radiation treatments I'd wait as long as one hour  
23 for transport in a room with men and women in all  
24 stages of their disease. It was very depressing

1 and degrading. I was away from my family. I  
2 was alone.

3 The protocol treatment they required was  
4 more than I could bear. My doctors would not  
5 listen to my concerns and questions or address  
6 them. Their way was the only way. So I checked  
7 out of the hospital.

8 Two weeks later I had severe side effects  
9 from the chemo and radiation treatment which I  
10 had received so far, but at least I was home  
11 vomiting in my own clean toilet. My hair was in  
12 a waste can.

13 I waited a few weeks, did some research of  
14 my own and was recommended by several  
15 professional and lay people to see Dr. Pundaleeka  
16 at Jo-Hoff Medical Center.

17 I took some time to consider my options,  
18 and I chose where I would receive my treatment.  
19 I chose Jo-Hoff, which was only a few miles from  
20 my home, much better than driving 35 miles to  
21 seek treatment elsewhere. I slept in my own bed,  
22 and I got sick in my own toilet. I had my  
23 friends and family around me.

24 Within five minutes of my first visit with

1 Dr. Pundaleeka I knew that I had a voice that was  
2 being heard. He uses his instinct and vast  
3 experience to customize treatment for each  
4 individual patient. The tomotherapy radiation  
5 machine afforded me much less side effects. All  
6 my nurses and technicians knew my name. I didn't  
7 have to wait hours and hours for my appointment,  
8 and I saw the same nurses and technicians  
9 every time.

10 I was once again a person, not just a body.  
11 I was being cared for. I never felt rushed or  
12 pressured. He takes as much time as need be with  
13 all of his patients.

14 As I am now in remission, I am very  
15 grateful for the care and treatment I received at  
16 Jo-Hoff. I would urge everyone to realize that  
17 they have choices, and they should be encouraged  
18 to exercise them. Being stricken with such a  
19 devastating disease as cancer is difficult in and  
20 of itself. Not having a voice in where you  
21 receive that treatment is a tragedy.

22 Dr. Pundaleeka heard my voice. I have seen  
23 the joy of a victory in his eyes and the pain of  
24 a loss on his face. I am so grateful that he

1           cared enough to listen to me. Doctors don't  
2           listen.

3                   I don't know much about what's going on  
4           here, but I know that politics have no place in  
5           medicine, and I know that when there are good and  
6           caring doctors out there locally, you need to  
7           seek them out.

8                   Thank you.

9                                   (Applause.)

10                           HEARING OFFICER HALL: Michael Sass.

11                           DR. SASS: Good morning. My name is  
12           Dr. Michael Sass, and I'm the superintendent of  
13           the New Lenox School District 122. As a longtime  
14           resident of New Lenox, it's been thrilling to  
15           watch the new Silver Cross Hospital taking shape  
16           at the corner of Route 6 and Interstate 355.  
17           What a bonus it was to hear about the hospital's  
18           plan to jointly develop a cancer center with the  
19           University of Chicago Medical Center on that new  
20           campus. I'm very happy to be here today to voice  
21           my full support for this project.

22                           I know many families and children in our  
23           school district that count on Silver Cross  
24           Hospital for their medical care. I also know

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1           what a comfort it will be to families in this  
2           area to know that such a prestigious cancer  
3           program as that offered by the University of  
4           Chicago Medical Center will be available to our  
5           families here in New Lenox.

6                   A diagnosis of cancer can have a very  
7           disruptive and long-lasting impact on a family --  
8           especially children. Unfortunately, for many  
9           cancer patients today, they are required to  
10          travel long distances to downtown Chicago  
11          facilities where the majority of specialists are  
12          located. I cannot imagine how difficult it would  
13          be to endure some of the most invasive treatments  
14          in such unfamiliar surroundings and so far from  
15          the comforts of home.

16                   With the University of Chicago cancer  
17          specialists and treatments available right here  
18          in our community, more patients will be able to  
19          get that care much closer to home, giving these  
20          patients -- especially children -- more time to  
21          focus on the things that matter most in their life.

22                   Our school district has more than  
23          5,600 students and 600 staff members. Having a  
24          100 top hospital like Silver Cross located right

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1 here in our community is a definite asset, and  
2 adding a cancer program with a national  
3 reputation like the University of Chicago Medical  
4 Center will mean even more to the residents in  
5 our community.

6 Having these two award winning  
7 organizations make such a significant investment  
8 to expand health care services in our community  
9 is perhaps one of the most important investments  
10 we can be making in our children's future.

11 I urge you to approve the proposed cancer  
12 center here in New Lenox not only for our  
13 community residents today but for future  
14 generations to come.

15 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to  
16 voice my support for this project today.

17 (Applause.)

18 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Bettye Curry.

19 MS. CURRY: That's C-u-r-r-y.

20 Good morning. My name is Bettye Curry.  
21 I'm a resident of Lemont, Illinois, and have been  
22 a patient at Silver Cross Hospital off and on for  
23 the last 25 years.

24 In the past few years I've experienced a

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1 real change in this hospital. It seems to all of  
2 a sudden be in the big time for specialized care  
3 and can compete with the top hospitals in the  
4 country.

5 I'm here today to support the proposed  
6 cancer center at Silver Cross Hospital campus in  
7 New Lenox. I'm really excited to learn the  
8 University of Chicago Medical Center cancer  
9 services will be available in this community.

10 My daughter was diagnosed with bone cancer  
11 in May of 1994, just 14 years old. We needed a  
12 place that we could put the life of our only  
13 child in their hands, and we found that at the  
14 University of Chicago. With the help of  
15 Dr. Michael Simon, the head of orthopedics, and  
16 Dr. Nachman, pediatric oncologist, we now have  
17 our beautiful 31-year-old alive today.

18 It was a long, hard struggle for us  
19 physically, mentally, and financially. She had  
20 rounds of chemo that lasted all summer, in and  
21 out of the hospital, emergency rooms at 3:00 in  
22 the morning, and finally in September she had her  
23 left leg amputated. After surgery there were  
24 further rounds of chemo and numerous trips to

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1 Wyler's Children's Hospital at the U of C.

2 The long trip from Lemont to downtown  
3 Chicago was always filled with anxiety, stress,  
4 and additional costs of gas, food, and parking  
5 each time. My husband and I would have to take  
6 turns missing work because of the long days of  
7 treatment in the months that were following after  
8 the surgery.

9 Our little girl was exhausted from endless  
10 hours of chemo, doctors, and long days. It would  
11 have been a Godsend to have a place closer to  
12 home with the excellent care received at the  
13 University of Chicago.

14 I can also tell you that my husband and I  
15 both were diagnosed with different cancers later  
16 after she was, and we both received our services  
17 at Silver Cross where we had excellent care.

18 So I stand before you today asking that you  
19 allow the University of Chicago and Silver Cross  
20 to build a cancer center in New Lenox so that  
21 other families will not have to go through what  
22 ours did.

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

1 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Sarode

2 Pundaleeka. Please spell your name.

3 DR. PUNDALEEKA: My name is

4 S-a-r-o-d-e, K is the initial, Pundaleeka,

5 P-u-n-d-a-l-e-e-k-a.

6 Thank you very much for the opportunity to  
7 talk. I'm a physician practicing medical  
8 oncology in the Joliet area since 1981, thanks to  
9 Dr. Asaad who literally dragged me to Silver Cross.

10 The reason? I had the opportunity to stay  
11 back at Rush where I came from. Also, I had two  
12 other opportunities to go to universities. One  
13 of the reasons I chose to come to Silver Cross  
14 was Mr. Nixon, one of the best CEOs at Silver  
15 Cross that I ever met with. And he also offered  
16 help that is needed for the community, and we  
17 were seeing 30 to 50 patients a month at  
18 Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's from the Joliet area  
19 when I came. The patients, most of the times it  
20 was Friday afternoons that you'd see them.

21 I decided not to stay at the university;  
22 the reason being that I would go where we are  
23 needed, not where you want to be. Yes, I wanted  
24 to have the glamour of the university. I wanted

1 to have the professor's title. I don't think it  
2 means much. It's a title. It's the care that  
3 you give, the compassion you show, and the  
4 advanced technology that you bring to the  
5 community where you practice and make life better  
6 for the patients.

7 Mrs. Casey, Rosemary, every one of the  
8 patients here who have had cancer, Forouk, and  
9 the other doctors who were here, all of you,  
10 please give them a big hand.

11 (Applause.)

12 DR. PUNDALEEKA: They are the people  
13 we need to be serving, and political football is  
14 not what I cared about, and I did not want to be  
15 in the limelight.

16 To bring the community into the level that  
17 I expected myself -- there was no cancer program  
18 at Silver Cross Hospital, and once a month there  
19 was a tumor board that was established, and I was  
20 the reigning champion for the cancer community in  
21 both hospitals for six years in a row, both  
22 sides.

23 We wanted to bring transplants in town.  
24 There was problems with it. I'm not going to

1 give you the details of it.

2 Then I joined Mayo Clinic in 1991. I was  
3 one of the primary servers for research in the  
4 community. We have been doing research -- that's  
5 nothing new -- since 1991 thanks to one of the  
6 mentors for me at Mayo.

7 Second thing, we wanted to get Phase II  
8 studies done in the community. I talked to  
9 Everett Cokes. By the time we were doing the  
10 MRI biopsies, we're the only place that had an  
11 in-house breast scan in town. Most hospitals  
12 don't have it. They have it coming on the truck  
13 once a week. Why? I don't know what to tell you  
14 anything other than it's financial reasons.

15 That's what I hate about it; everything is  
16 finance, finance, finance. Now with the  
17 affiliation that we are talking about, we had the  
18 affiliation with University of Chicago. Does  
19 anybody know here that we had the affiliation  
20 with University of Chicago? We brought  
21 University of Chicago in town, in Joliet. Joliet  
22 was affiliated with the University of Chicago for  
23 cancer care.

24 The big thing the administration is talking

1           about -- they stomped on our door and said, "You  
2           have to take off the name." If they had any  
3           intention to bring to the community the services  
4           needed for the patients, they would not have done  
5           that. I questioned it. I went as far as I could  
6           go to see that it would not happen. They said,  
7           "No, it will not be." The reason is financial  
8           because they're affiliated with Silver Cross  
9           Hospital.

10                   We had talked to Silver Cross Hospital  
11           after the affiliation with University of Chicago.  
12           "Since we have the affiliation, let's try to  
13           bring the best care possible to the hospital."  
14           No. Because it is not financially interesting  
15           for both of them. It's not the care of patients  
16           we are talking about. It is finances.

17                   The mayor, you talk about "I do not have  
18           any objections to anybody coming in. Competition  
19           makes the good man better, bad man worse." I  
20           agree with that. I'm practicing because I enjoy  
21           seeing the patients. His mother was my patient.

22                   This is not about money. This is not about  
23           putting in new services. It is not trying to  
24           make the patients drive. That is not the reason

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1 I sit here with reservations.

2 We have been in the community bringing the  
3 latest technologies. Everything that is needed  
4 for diagnosis, treatment is available. We are  
5 affiliated now with two universities and  
6 ourselves to bring these services in town. One  
7 of them is the esteemed University of Chicago,  
8 which kicked us out, as well as another  
9 university and us, three people doing the Phase I  
10 in town.

11 If they are going to come in -- and in  
12 2003, they did not have a PET scan at University  
13 of Chicago. I talked to him. I showed him. He  
14 said, "Thank you very much for speaking."  
15 Because he stayed 1 1/2 hours trying to look at  
16 all the PET scans that we had done. We had done  
17 thousands of scans, and University of Chicago did  
18 not even have a PET scanner. They got their PET  
19 scanner in 2004.

20 You're talking technology. We had critical  
21 scanning that was not available to the  
22 university. You are talking about bringing  
23 technologies and the research. We have been  
24 serving this community trying to make that

1 available to the patient higher than the  
2 financial things.

3 That is the reason why I oppose it. Not  
4 because of anything else. Both hospitals, they  
5 do give excellent care, and I do not mind  
6 admitting the patients to the hospital, and I  
7 tell them, "You want better care? Go to this  
8 hospital."

9 But the care is not the hospital; it is not  
10 the university. It is the people behind it. It  
11 is the nurses behind it. Thank you for working  
12 with us. Mr. Weeks' wife was being cared for by  
13 our physicians.

14 I'm not here to ask for accolades. That is  
15 not what the problem is. The problem is why do  
16 you need to have this when there are so many  
17 centers that are available? There is access  
18 capacity, and Dr. Asaad is being kicked out. And  
19 she wants to build a center with the hospital.  
20 Because they want to get the financial aspect of  
21 it, 40 percent for University of Chicago,  
22 60 percent for the hospital. Is that what we are  
23 about? Shame on us.

24 I have been a cancer adviser of patients.

1 I love my patients and the patients love me. I  
2 have done I think the best that I could do in our  
3 town. I have three years in a row -- after one  
4 of my favorite patients died of breast cancer  
5 60 miles from the University of Chicago -- I  
6 raised about \$15,000 each time. We are five  
7 years and running less than 50 employees we're  
8 the highest people that collected the money.  
9 Last year we collected the highest money for the  
10 Relay for Life.

11 That is the way that we need to give to the  
12 community and the patients, not bringing in big  
13 name politics into the town where we are. Most  
14 of the research is done in the community.  
15 80 percent of research is done in the community,  
16 not at the universities.

17 And why is University of Chicago trying to  
18 pressure us to get patients? We were second  
19 highest after University of Chicago in the  
20 Phase II program when we had the program with  
21 them. When we were kicked out, we said, "Fine.  
22 We'll go on our own."

23 That's what I wanted to bring up. I wanted  
24 to bring this up to the community so you know I

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1 am not against the project. We had it.  
2 University of Chicago was affiliated with us.  
3 Why did they break the affiliation?

4 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Doctor, we've  
5 really got to wrap it up.

6 DR. PUNDALEEKA: Thank you very much.  
7 (Applause.)

8 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Ralph  
9 Weichselbaum.

10 DR. SZERLAG: I'm speaking on his  
11 behalf.

12 Good morning. I'm Chet Szerlag. I'm the  
13 executive administrator for radiation oncology at  
14 the University of Chicago, and I'm also a DuPage  
15 County resident. I've lived out there I think a  
16 couple decades, and I've seen the growth in  
17 DuPage County which I think is astounding, and I  
18 want to tell you the same kind of growth is  
19 occurring in Will County.

20 In DuPage County we've had a tremendous  
21 upgrade of health care services which came with  
22 that population growth, and I think some of that  
23 is what we're talking about today, and so I'm  
24 pleased to try and give you a little more detail

1           on it.

2                   As I said, I'm the executive administrator  
3           for the program, been there from the beginning  
4           with Dr. Weichselbaum. Unfortunately,  
5           Dr. Weichselbaum couldn't be here today, so I'm  
6           going to read his letter of support to you. Let  
7           me just read directly from the letter then.

8                   He is here to express support for the  
9           proposed center at Silver Cross, and We  
10          believe -- the faculty, Dr. Haraf, and all of us  
11          at the University believe that we're going to  
12          bring closer to home, as you've heard from other  
13          compelling stories this morning, very advanced  
14          cancer care.

15                   It's all about choice. With that comes  
16          better access, more convenient access to the  
17          latest treatment technology, and many of those  
18          technologies we were early adopters and we  
19          pioneered at the university over the past couple  
20          decades.

21                   Let me share with you a little bit more  
22          about what these treatments are that we're going  
23          to be offering and how it will impact all of  
24          those individuals in the community.

1                   We'll have two primary services here at the  
2                   new hospital campus off of 355 in the medical  
3                   oncology area. We'll have an infusion and  
4                   chemotherapy program, and obviously we're going  
5                   to have radiation oncology there in the building,  
6                   as well.

7                   With radiation oncology, there were various  
8                   individuals testifying earlier about the  
9                   importance of it. This is a team sport and we  
10                  have 12 physicians who practice that specialty,  
11                  and we have a very experienced and expert team  
12                  providing very precise therapy, and it's  
13                  something we're very proud of.

14                  We're proud to bring that out here to the  
15                  community. Many of the patients we've seen, as  
16                  you've heard, 1400 have come down to Hyde Park.  
17                  That is a drive I do every day, and I appreciate  
18                  what it's like if you're ill, especially with  
19                  cancer. So this is going to be available much  
20                  closer, and we're very excited about that fact.

21                  One of the technologies we're going to  
22                  bring out here -- and I'm not stressing  
23                  technology in lieu of physician expertise by any  
24                  means, but we are an earlier adopter for a new

1 linear accelerator technology that's been  
2 introduced in the U.S. by the Varian Corporation,  
3 and there's only four of these in the country,  
4 and one will be here at Silver Cross when it  
5 opens in the near future.

6 With this equipment what we're able to do  
7 is provide image-guided radiation therapy, which  
8 is really the best practice in the clinical field  
9 at this moment, and we do that with personal care  
10 and accuracy, and it's something to look  
11 forward to.

12 As I said, we have a very large team, and I  
13 think with the evolution of health care services,  
14 the quality of sophisticated care is very  
15 important to organize and structure. So we have  
16 not only 12 physicians organized according to  
17 tumor site -- to head and neck, to pediatric, to  
18 lung, to prostate -- we practice by that  
19 structure, and we have medical physicists and  
20 other professionals including nurses -- they're  
21 oncology certified nurses, by the way.

22 So we do offer the best care available.  
23 We're known in the Chicago area for the cancer  
24 program and for radiation oncology, so the

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1 opportunity to come to the community here I think  
2 is something we're very excited about.

3 HEARING OFFICER HALL: You're going  
4 to have to wrap it up. We're going to have to  
5 stay under two minutes.

6 DR. SZERLAG: Under two minutes. Okay.

7 One other thing, this is not a new deal for  
8 us in the sense that we have several decades of  
9 experience in radiation oncology, and being the  
10 administrator over that period of time we  
11 partnered in a community -- DuPage County in  
12 particular -- for many, many years, and we  
13 continue to do that, and we understand the  
14 community needs and what is expected, and so  
15 we're here to be with you and to partner with you  
16 in that effort.

17 Therefore, I ask that the Illinois  
18 Facilities and Services Review Board approve the  
19 project because of the benefits that will come to  
20 the New Lenox population and the Will County  
21 residents.

22 So thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Bob Rogina.

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1 MR. ROGINA: Still good morning.

2 Bob Rogina, R-o-g-i-n-a. I'm here today to ask  
3 you to approve the much needed proposed cancer  
4 center at Silver Cross Hospital.

5 I have lived and worked in Will County my  
6 entire life. My late wife Joen raised our  
7 children here. In fact, all five of our sons  
8 were born at Silver Cross. As a matter of fact,  
9 Dr. Khater delivered the last two of those.

10 I currently volunteer my time as chairman  
11 of the Silver Cross Foundation board of  
12 directors, so I have firsthand knowledge of what  
13 a phenomenal hospital Silver Cross is.

14 When Joen was diagnosed with cancer in  
15 2006, we didn't think twice about where to go to  
16 for her care. Her oncologist and the entire  
17 staff at Silver Cross took such great care of  
18 her. Unfortunately, her cancer was too advanced,  
19 and there was not much they could have done for  
20 her at the time. She passed away three years ago.

21 I know that the doctors and nurses did  
22 everything in their power to save Joen, but I  
23 firmly believe if there was a full-fledged cancer  
24 center like the one being proposed with the

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1 University of Chicago on the Silver Cross campus,  
2 care for all affected citizens of Will County  
3 would be impacted in a positive way.

4 I've heard time and time again that the  
5 University of Chicago is one of the best cancer  
6 hospitals in the country. Having access to their  
7 expertise available at our Top 100 community  
8 hospital would be beneficial to other families  
9 like mine.

10 I know that if Joen was here today, she  
11 would have wanted her friends, family and  
12 neighbors to have the best cancer care available.  
13 So on behalf of my entire family, I ask you to  
14 please bring these life-saving services to my  
15 hospital and approve their application to build  
16 the University of Chicago Cancer Center at  
17 Silver Cross Hospital.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Beberman.

21 MR. BEBERMAN: Good morning. My name  
22 is John Beberman, and I will be reading on behalf  
23 of Edward Vokes, dean and chief executive officer  
24 at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

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1                   "While I am not able to be here in person,  
2                   I, Everett Vokes, would like to share my  
3                   enthusiastic support for the proposed University  
4                   of Chicago Cancer Center at Silver Cross Hospital  
5                   in New Lenox at this public hearing.

6                   "I believe this center, if approved, will  
7                   significantly improve the lives of many Will  
8                   County and southwest Cook County residents, and I  
9                   very much look forward to making the proposed  
10                  cancer center a vital asset for this community.

11                  "As the interim dean and chief executive  
12                  officer of the University of Chicago Medical  
13                  Center and practicing oncologist, I understand  
14                  both the value of a strong partnership with  
15                  Silver Cross Hospital as well as the great,  
16                  beneficial impact a new cancer center will have  
17                  on patients' lives when located close to their  
18                  home. Broadly speaking, the proposed cancer  
19                  center will bring advanced treatment protocols to  
20                  the Silver Cross campus currently only available  
21                  at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

22                  "In fact, when it comes to comprehensive  
23                  cancer care, our program is among the top in the  
24                  nation and unmatched in Illinois. By harnessing

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1 the combined clinical and research expertise of  
2 University of Chicago Medical Center and Silver  
3 Cross physicians, patients will receive and have  
4 better access to the best cancer care possible.

5 "Specifically, the University of Chicago  
6 has more than 150 clinical cancer specialists and  
7 subspecialists with expertise ranging from the  
8 most common -- such as breast, prostate, and  
9 colon cancer -- to less common cancers --  
10 including Ewing sarcoma, hairy cell leukemia, and  
11 mesothelioma.

12 "In addition, we have been a ladder in  
13 cancer research for decades, making fundamental  
14 discoveries in the molecular genetics of cancers,  
15 cancer immunology, hormonal therapy, bone marrow  
16 transplantation, cell signaling, and advanced  
17 imaging techniques. By locating a new center at  
18 Silver Cross Hospital, the latest therapeutics  
19 based on these discoveries will now be available  
20 to those patients who need such specialized care  
21 without having to travel to Chicago to get it.

22 "While the University of Chicago Medical  
23 Center serves the most complex needs of patients  
24 throughout the Midwest and beyond on our main

1 campus, we seek to partner with community  
2 physicians and hospitals to ensure that patients  
3 receive care in the most appropriate setting,  
4 which is most often in their community.

5 "As the Board may be aware, the University  
6 of Chicago Medical Center provided more care to  
7 Medicaid recipients in 2008 than any other  
8 Illinois hospital except John H. Stroger Hospital  
9 of Cook County. We have also embarked on an  
10 ambitious initiative to transform access to care  
11 and improve the health status in the  
12 neighborhoods surrounding our main campus.

13 "Silver Cross has led similar initiatives  
14 and developed strong partnerships with community  
15 organizations. This is why I'm delighted to be  
16 working with Silver Cross Hospital, an  
17 institution with the same commitment and  
18 dedication to community service.

19 "Cancer strikes people in all walks of life  
20 and at any age. Through community outreach  
21 efforts and new partnerships, we have a  
22 tremendous opportunity to enhance cancer  
23 prevention and increase access to the best and  
24 most appropriate cancer care.

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1                   "My faculty physician colleagues and I look  
2 forward to collaborating with physicians,  
3 patients, and their families, and I ask that the  
4 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review  
5 Board approve this project.

6                   "Thank you for your consideration."

7                                   (Applause.)

8                   HEARING OFFICER HALL: Is  
9 Dr. Chawla here?

10                                   (No response.)

11                   HEARING OFFICER HALL: I'm going to  
12 spell this, and I'm not sure of it.  
13 K-s-i-v-a-f-a-j-a-i-i.

14                   THE AUDIENCE: We can't hear you.

15                   HEARING OFFICER HALL:  
16 K-s-i-v-a-f-a-j-a-i-i.

17                   Nafisa, V-u -- I think that's an E, but it  
18 might be an S-h-a-l-i.

19                   MS. VURHANI: Good morning. My name  
20 is Nafisa Vurhani, N-a-f-i-s-a, V-u-r-h-a-n-i.

21                   Good morning everybody. I really didn't  
22 come prepared to speak, but the reason I'm here  
23 is I've been with Joliet Oncology for 12 years.

24                   I don't think we are opposed to University

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1 of Chicago Silver Cross. Our contention is we  
2 have good cancer care available in the community.  
3 We have everything there is to offer, and it is  
4 under one roof. I just want the community to  
5 know that. You don't have to drive. It is  
6 already there.

7 So please consider this. The care that you  
8 want is available here. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Ira Rogal.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It will be written.

12 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Jim Roolf.

13 MR. ROOLF: Last name is R-o-o-l-f.

14 And it is still morning. Good morning. My  
15 name is Jim Roolf, and I am currently the  
16 chairman of the board of Silver Cross Hospital.

17 Having served on its board in one capacity  
18 or another for the last approximate eight years,  
19 I am here to represent the entire Board to voice  
20 our overwhelming support for the University of  
21 Chicago Cancer Center at Silver Cross Hospital in  
22 Joliet and New Lenox.

23 We are very proud that we are joining  
24 forces with the University of Chicago Medical

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1 Center to provide a world-class cancer center  
2 right here in Will County. Let me speak to you a  
3 moment about those who are talking about what  
4 exists here.

5 We do have fine cancer services available.  
6 That is true. That is not the question. The  
7 question is what are we doing today for our  
8 future.

9 Silver Cross Hospital is situated here in  
10 Will County. Most people don't realize that the  
11 United States Census Bureau suggests that  
12 Will County will be the second largest county in  
13 Illinois in 2030.

14 Now, just for a second suppose they are  
15 50 percent wrong. That will still make us the  
16 third largest county in the state. We are the  
17 fastest -- we've grown 36 1/2 percent since the  
18 last census through 2009 estimates.

19 Nationally we rank as one of the 20 fastest  
20 growing counties, and additionally, we're in the  
21 top 100 in most populous counties in the entire  
22 United States.

23 Will County's tremendous growth and strong  
24 projections for the same that I've described I

1 believe place a mandate on the Board to ensure  
2 that we continue to provide quality health care  
3 in our community.

4 The Board explored numerous options for  
5 providing cancer services on our campus, and as  
6 we looked at our facility in New Lenox and we  
7 went through this process a few years ago, we  
8 knew that we would have opportunities to create  
9 partnerships that would bring new and expanded  
10 services as to enhance -- not necessarily to  
11 replace but to enhance what we have here already.  
12 And to the extent we can do that, we are  
13 committed to do that.

14 Our board spent considerable time on this  
15 subject -- nine months or more, as I recall --  
16 diligently reviewing several proposals. And  
17 although our analysis was deliberate, our  
18 decision to work jointly with the University of  
19 Chicago was an easy one after that review  
20 process.

21 They are consistently ranked as the premier  
22 hospital for cancer treatment in Illinois. They  
23 offer more clinical trials than any other  
24 provider in our region. They are also one of

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1           only two programs in Illinois designated by the  
2           National Cancer Institute as an official  
3           comprehensive cancer center.

4                       This designation requires a substantial  
5           commitment to cancer research, professional and  
6           public education and dissemination of clinical  
7           and public health advances in the community.  
8           Their faculty members are recognized as national  
9           leaders by their peers and have a long history of  
10          teaming -- emphasis on teaming -- with community  
11          physicians and hospitals in research and  
12          patient care.

13                      Our board's mission is to ensure that we  
14          continue to provide a superior level of quality  
15          health care in our community. It is clear that  
16          the University of Chicago Cancer Center at  
17          Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox also offer  
18          unprecedented levels of cancer expertise in our  
19          community.

20                      Collectively Silver Cross Hospital and the  
21          University of Chicago are committed to begin to  
22          create a legacy that will continue for  
23          generations to come.

24                      We look forward to having our project

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1 approved by the Illinois Health Facilities and  
2 Services Review Board in October, and personally  
3 I'd like to thank the Board for giving us the  
4 opportunity to be heard here today and for all of  
5 us to voice our opinion, but in light of  
6 representing the Board, I would like to voice  
7 strong support for this project.

8 How is my time?

9 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Oh, you're done.

10 MR. ROOLF: I am done.

11 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Margie Woods.

12 MS. WOODS: Good morning. My name is  
13 Margie Woods. I am the chair of the Silver Cross  
14 Healthy Community Commission, and I'm here today  
15 in support of the unity between Silver Cross and  
16 the University of Chicago. I am also speaking on  
17 behalf of my fellow commission members who could  
18 not be here today but have expressed the same  
19 thing, that they are in support of this reunion.

20 I am very excited about the partnership  
21 between the University of Chicago and Silver Cross  
22 Hospital. It gives our community members more  
23 access to the best cancer treatment. These two  
24 entities will expand the care that can be given

1 to cancer survivors and people with cancer in our  
2 community today.

3 And one of the goals of the Healthy  
4 Community is to create a stronger, healthier  
5 atmosphere for our residents on the east side.  
6 As such, we are concerned about the availability  
7 and the expansion of health care services in our  
8 community.

9 In our community cancer remains the leading  
10 cause of death. Clearly we need more services  
11 instead of deducting what we have. There's  
12 enough to go around for everybody, and I just  
13 don't understand what the challenge is about not  
14 trying to improve things for our community, your  
15 community, and their community. It's enough. We  
16 are supposed to be improving things instead of  
17 deducting.

18 And I do also think that these people --  
19 okay. I'll start over. I'll tell you this,  
20 my story.

21 I am a cancer survivor two times, and I  
22 think it is something that is needed. We have to  
23 keep up with the times. We cannot depend on what  
24 we did last year and not look forward.

1                   I think the move that Silver Cross has made  
2                   in order to improve things here in this city or  
3                   county was the best that there could be, and we  
4                   have added different departments to the hospital,  
5                   and it benefits everybody.

6                   And with having cancer myself and I had to  
7                   go through that, my family had to go through  
8                   that, looking for the best care that we could  
9                   get. When I first heard the word "cancer," I  
10                  thought that that was the end, but as we went on,  
11                  I found out it does not mean the end. It means  
12                  that you have to go out and seek better care for  
13                  what you need, and this is what Silver has done.

14                  They have seeked better care and with the  
15                  number one people, not fly-by-nights but people  
16                  that know what they're doing and that you will  
17                  have confidence in. Having confidence in your  
18                  doctor or your hospital is 90 percent of the  
19                  battle, and I can truly say that I do have  
20                  confidence in Silver Cross.

21                  HEARING OFFICER HALL: We're really  
22                  going to have to wrap it up.

23                  MS. WOODS: Well, she tells me  
24                  I'm done.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. WOODS: I do want to thank Silver  
3 for this move and the other moves that they have  
4 that they are going to make to make things  
5 better.

6 (Applause.)

7 HEARING OFFICER HALL: I'm not trying  
8 to rush you. I just want to make sure everybody  
9 has the opportunity to speak, so we really need  
10 to keep it under two minutes.

11 MS. RUSHING: I'm sorry for  
12 interrupting, but I have a radiation treatment at  
13 1:00, and I did want to make this statement  
14 before I left. I didn't understand that this  
15 meeting was going to take this long when I said I  
16 was going to attend.

17 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Make sure you  
18 spell your name for the Court Reporter.

19 MS. RUSHING: Okay. My name is Irene  
20 Rushing, R-u-s-h-i-n-g.

21 Anyway, I was just diagnosed with a  
22 lymphoma on the skin. I went through extensive  
23 tests, and at this point in time on my face is  
24 the only place I have the cancer, so I'm going

1 for the radiation.

2 I had three doctors during this process. I  
3 went to a dermatologist, Dr. Paula Lipinski,  
4 which diagnosed this after I've had it for many  
5 years and people misdiagnosed it. But anyway,  
6 then I went to a Dr. Narula and my family  
7 physician, and all three of these physicians  
8 directed me to the -- I believe it's the cancer  
9 center of the Hoffman -- I believe that's the  
10 name of it.

11 And when I got there, I was very impressed  
12 by the center. They are local. They're right  
13 across from the Silver Cross facility now. And I  
14 was impressed when I got to the facility because  
15 if I had listened to this meeting prior to my  
16 going to this facility, I would have probably  
17 have thought that there would have been people  
18 hanging out the door waiting to get in because  
19 they're telling me about this need for this  
20 University of Chicago. But I didn't find that.

21 I walked right in through the place, was  
22 treated with kindness and courtesy from the  
23 entire staff there, and within like three days I  
24 had my first treatment, and today is only going

1 to be my fourth treatment, and I've got a series  
2 of 12 coming. And then I probably have a future  
3 of going every so often to check back to make  
4 sure that it's staying on the scan and not going  
5 somewhere else into my lymph nodes, on my brain  
6 or something like that.

7 I just wanted to say that I didn't come  
8 here intending to put a long speech forward, but  
9 with time running out I just want to say I am  
10 glad we have facilities in our community that  
11 have state-of-the-art equipment. Because what  
12 I'm having is I believe is with some kind of  
13 imaging where they put a mask on your face and  
14 guide it through with some kind of contraption  
15 that is made personally for me.

16 So it is a state-of-the-art facility, and  
17 there are not people hanging out the door. So  
18 why are we getting more for our community when we  
19 have really the best in the community already?

20 That's all I've got to say.

21 (Applause.)

22 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Reverend  
23 Herbert Brooks.

24 MR. BROOKS: Well, I'm probably the

1 first one to say good afternoon now.

2 My name is Herbert Brooks, Junior, and  
3 although I am the elected Will County Board  
4 member that represents District 8, my role today  
5 is because I am the pastor of the St. John  
6 Baptist Church of Joliet, having served there for  
7 over 20 years. I'm also a member of the Silver  
8 Cross Healthy Commission, and I'm very honored to  
9 be here today so that you can hear my voice of my  
10 overwhelming support of the Silver Cross Hospital  
11 and the University of Chicago Medical Center and  
12 their plan to develop a cancer facility in  
13 New Lenox.

14 In my role as a pastor of St. John in  
15 Joliet, I have seen my share of parishioners,  
16 their families that go through the struggle with  
17 cancer. It is very devastating and a long  
18 lasting impact on that family. The emotional  
19 toll can be just as evasive as the physical toll.  
20 More services for cancer are needed in this area,  
21 and the proposed facility would benefit so many  
22 people.

23 I do and we applaud Silver Cross Hospital  
24 and the University of Chicago Medical Center for

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1 joining forces in this venture. I know this  
2 project will be successful. I have worked with  
3 Silver Cross Hospital, the Healthy Commission  
4 board, now for the last three years. Over that  
5 time I have personally witnessed Silver Cross  
6 Hospital deliver on every promise that they have  
7 made to our community.

8 They are working with the community where I  
9 serve to provide educational scholarships for  
10 residents for the entire east side of Joliet, and  
11 I'm very proud of that. They have successfully  
12 worked with Aunt Martha's Youth Services, who  
13 soon will be establishing a very qualified health  
14 center on their Joliet campus, and they are  
15 working with community leaders as myself and  
16 other members of the Healthy Community Commission  
17 to help decide what will happen with the Joliet  
18 campus once the hospital relocates to New Lenox.

19 This project is just another example of  
20 Silver Cross Hospital's commitment, and it's all  
21 about expanding cancer services in the area.

22 In conclusion, please approve the cancer  
23 center in New Lenox. I ask as a Will County  
24 board member that you do this, but as a pastor I

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1 pray that we simply will not deny access to a  
2 much needed service in our area.

3 Thank you and good afternoon.

4 (Applause.)

5 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Russ Slinkard.

6 (No response.)

7 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Val Rand.

8 MR. RAND: Val, V-a-l, Rand, R-a-n-d.

9 Thank you. I am Val Rand and I own a  
10 chain of 15 Hallmark stores. We're located  
11 throughout Will County and the adjoining  
12 counties, and the business is social  
13 communication -- it's the sale of social  
14 communication, more known as greeting cards and  
15 gifts maybe.

16 I'm honored to write and speak in favor of  
17 Silver Cross Hospital's plan to construct a  
18 20,000-square-foot building for University of  
19 Chicago Medical Center.

20 Silver Cross' position at Route 355 and  
21 Route 6 is a prominent, state-of-the-art facility  
22 standing out as a dominant medical facility.  
23 It's dominance is enhanced by its ability to be  
24 awarded six years continuously as a top

1           100 hospital in its class throughout the nation.  
2           Its customer service reputation excels as one of  
3           the highest nationwide, and, of course, we all  
4           know that a positive attitude prevailing in any  
5           endeavor, including healing, accelerates in  
6           conjunction with degrees of attitude, and Silver  
7           Cross has proven this point often these past  
8           six years.

9                     Allowing Silver Cross to progress with a  
10           relationship with the University of Chicago  
11           Cancer Center only benefits the people of Will  
12           and adjoining counties. No more need to travel  
13           to Chicago -- instead, the best available  
14           treatment is here in their local hometowns. What  
15           a great reward for the people of Will and  
16           adjoining counties who have been waiting for this  
17           for a long, long time.

18                     Cancer invades many, many families, mine  
19           included. My mother died of cancer  
20           complications. We also had to travel to Chicago.  
21           This is quite a few years ago, but the memory of  
22           the exhaustion from the travel alone will never  
23           be forgotten. Only to have the best in your own  
24           hometown close, what a blessing.

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1                   Realizing that in the last seven years the  
2                   incidence of cancer has increased 42 percent and  
3                   70 percent of the local residents have to leave  
4                   their local communities for Chicago, having  
5                   Silver Cross and the University of Chicago  
6                   Medical Cancer Center teaming up to bring the  
7                   best to our people is what is right for the  
8                   people who have waited all these years.

9                   Being able to have the University of  
10                  Chicago Medical Center, they being ranked as one  
11                  of the best cancer centers by U.S. News and World  
12                  Report, will certainly be positive for New Lenox  
13                  as the place to live in and around.

14                 I plead that this proposed cancer center  
15                 that will bring the best in radiation oncology,  
16                 state-of-the-art linear acceleration with image-  
17                 guided radiation therapy, medical oncology,  
18                 chemotherapy, and infusion, cancer support  
19                 groups, prevention and screening, coordination of  
20                 care, and clinical trials be brought to us, the  
21                 citizens of New Lenox and surrounding areas.

22                 Yes, please do what is necessary. We plead  
23                 that the decision makers in Springfield will  
24                 honor this request.

1 I thank you sincerely and, again, please  
2 do it.

3 (Applause.)

4 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Lou Ann Johnson.

5 MS. JOHNSON: My name is

6 Lou Ann Johnson. I am the current president of  
7 the Joliet chapter of the National Hookup of  
8 Black Women.

9 The National Hookup of Black Women has been  
10 in Joliet for 19 years. We have 18 chapters  
11 across the United States. One of our mandates is  
12 cancer awareness. We have been doing this for  
13 19 years in the City of Joliet.

14 Through this we provide programs. Besides  
15 having annual cancer awareness workshops, we  
16 distribute literature; we educate the minority  
17 population about how to do self tests, especially  
18 for women. We provide free mammogram vouchers.

19 Also, what we have done is initiated a  
20 program for prostate screening for minority men  
21 on the east side of Joliet. This is something  
22 that is one of the issues that does not get  
23 treated is prostate screening for men because men  
24 will not go and get tested. So we did initiate a

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1 program where we partnered with the churches to  
2 do an annual test, and we bring the doctors  
3 to them.

4 But with that, my membership -- 130 members  
5 strong here in Joliet -- did vote unanimously  
6 this past Saturday for me to come here to say we  
7 do support the partnership of Silver Cross  
8 Hospital and University of Chicago to bring a  
9 cancer center to Joliet -- New Lenox.

10 The reason we want to do this is because  
11 we're all about awareness and making sure that we  
12 have services available to all the people. It's  
13 the minority people that usually get left out.

14 I can give my own personal testimony where  
15 my mother did die from bone cancer, and when she  
16 had it we had to go to Chicago. I had to take  
17 her because she did not have insurance. So I  
18 would take her to Chicago to get treated and also  
19 for her to get diagnosed.

20 So it is needed. If you've got insurance,  
21 yes, you have a lot available to you, but if you  
22 don't have insurance -- which a great majority in  
23 Joliet don't have -- then your options are  
24 limited sometimes.



1 I have known her for over 30 years, and I  
2 think it's a tragedy what Silver Cross is doing  
3 to her.

4 I think it's interesting that Mr. Pawlak,  
5 the president of the hospital, acknowledged  
6 medical oncology in 1981, but Dr. Asaad was  
7 there, also. She saw that this community needed  
8 radiation oncology back in the '80s when the  
9 hospital didn't want to have anything to do with  
10 it. She gave with her own money to buy this  
11 equipment to make sure that everyone had the  
12 state-of-the-art treatment that they deserved.

13 And Silver Cross is very giving and does  
14 charitable donation and does charitable services.  
15 Dr. Asaad has never turned away anyone of those  
16 patients that come there. She is very giving;  
17 she is very charitable; she treats all of her  
18 patients with comparison and as if they're her  
19 own family.

20 And I just can't believe that Silver Cross  
21 now after all this time would now all of a sudden  
22 take an interest in radiation oncology so that  
23 they would get their own department.

24 As one of the other doctors said, politics,

1           unfortunately, should not be in medicine, and  
2           with Dr. Asaad it is not. She cares about the  
3           people, but when Silver Cross looks at the bottom  
4           line and realizes they could have a radiation  
5           oncology department of their own and get 60 percent  
6           of it to fill their pockets, suddenly radiation  
7           oncology takes a turn to the forefront.

8                     And I just think it's unfortunate you would  
9           kick this woman out of your community when she  
10          saw it first that this community needed radiation  
11          oncology and they needed treatment, and if we  
12          agree to bring University of Chicago here,  
13          Dr. Asaad will be kicked out.

14                    Unfortunately, we can talk about  
15          competition and it's great for competition --  
16          yeah, I'm all for competition also, but when it  
17          comes down to referrals and we have a main  
18          hospital that's going to be giving referrals to  
19          the University of Chicago, Dr. Asaad will no  
20          longer be able to see those patients just on a  
21          referral basis.

22                    So I just ask that everyone reconsider.  
23          Although University of Chicago is a great name  
24          and they do great treatment also, Dr. Asaad is

1 here at home, and she has been with you this  
2 whole time. And, unfortunately, voting for  
3 University of Chicago will be voting against  
4 Dr. Asaad.

5 So thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Richard  
8 Schilsky.

9 MR. SCHILSKY: In the interest of  
10 time, I'll submit it in writing.

11 HEARING OFFICER HALL: I believe this  
12 is Corinne -- I can't actually read this --  
13 probably --

14 DR. NAWROCKI: Nawrocki,  
15 N-a-w-r-o-c-k-i.

16 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Thank you.

17 DR. NAWROCKI: Hello. I'm  
18 Dr. Corrine Nawrocki. I've been practicing  
19 family medicine in this area for 13 years. I'm  
20 speaking really on behalf of my patients.

21 The hardest thing I ever have to do as a  
22 family practice doctor is tell a patient that  
23 they have cancer.

24 I still remember the first patient who I

1 did a biopsy on, found out it was malignant  
2 melanoma. I sent her to the University of  
3 Chicago, which was her choice.

4 The drive was horrible. It was from  
5 Olympia Fields, not as far from here, but she did  
6 very well.

7 There is wonderful care here, wonderful  
8 care, but I look at the University of Chicago  
9 like I look at my Uncle Virgil. My Uncle Virgil  
10 knows everything about anything that has a motor,  
11 gears, and wheels. So before anything ever gets  
12 done to my car, I run it past my Uncle Virgil  
13 because in my eyes he's the expert.

14 For many of my patients the University of  
15 Chicago is the expert in cancer care. It is  
16 their perception that the University of Chicago  
17 can give them the best advice and oftentimes the  
18 best care.

19 If that provides my patients with peace of  
20 mind and a sense of security that they're making  
21 the best decision for themselves, then I support  
22 them in that. I want my patients to have what  
23 they want and what will make them the most  
24 comfortable.

1 Options are important. And if they choose  
2 to have their care here and to never have a  
3 second opinion, that's okay, too. But I have  
4 them before their diagnosis, through their  
5 diagnosis, and after their diagnosis, and it's up  
6 to me to help them make the best decision that  
7 they can for their treatment.

8 So I ask you to please consider very  
9 seriously the desire to put this service into the  
10 community.

11 Thank you very much.

12 (Applause.)

13 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Neda  
14 Z-e-l-e-h-o-v-i-t-i-s.

15 MS. ZELEHOVITIS: Good afternoon. My  
16 name is Neda Zelehovitis. I have lived in the  
17 Joliet area all my life and have been pleased to  
18 be an oncology nurse in this area for over  
19 16 years now.

20 I recently became a certified breast care  
21 nurse, one of only 300 nurses so designated  
22 nationwide. I'm currently employed at  
23 Silver Cross Hospital working in the Infusion  
24 Center for Women and also at the Center of

1 Women's Health as a breast health specialist.

2 I'm very honored to be serving in this  
3 capacity at Silver Cross Hospital and feel  
4 privileged to be working with such -- I'm sorry;  
5 excuse me -- and such remarkable patients as  
6 those who are currently undergoing treatment.  
7 Through my years of assisting in the care of  
8 cancer patients I have listened to so many voice  
9 their concern about having to go -- wish that  
10 there was a university center closer to home and  
11 not having to drive that distance.

12 They had to fight rush hour traffic in the  
13 morning to see an oncologist or receive treatment  
14 in the city and then turn around to fight rush  
15 hour traffic home, all the while suffering the  
16 effects of chemotherapy. Personally, I cannot  
17 imagine how difficult those trips must have been.

18 Traveling back and forth to Chicago not  
19 only requires a lot of time for the patients but  
20 family members, as well, who may have to take a  
21 day off of work to drive their loved one for  
22 treatment. If the patient has children, there is  
23 added worry of childcare. All of these factors  
24 add undue stress for families simply trying to

1 cope with their loved ones battling cancer.

2 This scenario, unfortunately, is all too  
3 familiar for many families. By teaming up with  
4 the University of Chicago Medical Center we can  
5 offer better patient care closer to home. Our  
6 patients would no longer have to drive to Chicago  
7 to obtain guided radiation therapy or seen by a  
8 team of oncologists, hematologists to get their  
9 infusion treatments, and also they would have  
10 access to clinical trials.

11 We have very good oncologists here, but I  
12 think it's a matter of choice for individuals.  
13 Some people prefer to go to a university  
14 hospital. So we do have good oncology doctors  
15 here, but that would open up -- they can go for  
16 another opinion and be seen by another doctor and  
17 feel confident in their care. Because they only  
18 have one time to be treated. Their diagnosis --  
19 they have to feel confident that they have made  
20 the best choices with their treatment that  
21 they have.

22 So as a chemotherapy nurse and a breast  
23 health specialist, I support the partnership and  
24 look forward to the day that our patients can

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1 again be receiving their care here. After all is  
2 said and done, the proposed cancer center that we  
3 are discussing here today really is and only  
4 should be about the patients.

5 Thank you for your time and your  
6 consideration.

7 (Applause.)

8 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Lonnie  
9 Polhemus.

10 MR. POLHEMUS: Hello. My name is  
11 Lonnie Polhemus. I'm the manager of the  
12 Will-Grundy EMS service at Silver Cross Hospital.

13 For 35 years the Will-Grundy EMS system has  
14 provided the highest quality of prehospital  
15 patient care. We operate out of Silver Cross,  
16 which is our state-designated resource hospital,  
17 and we have trained thousands of paramedics,  
18 EMTs, nurses, and first responders all while  
19 having 32 provider agencies through 32 local fire  
20 department and ambulance services.

21 On behalf of my providers, I'm here today  
22 to express our strong support for Silver Cross  
23 Hospital and University of Chicago Medical Center  
24 to build a state-of-the-art cancer center right

1 here in New Lenox.

2 As first responders, our top priority is  
3 always to stabilize the patients and transport  
4 them to the nearest hospital for emergent medical  
5 care. As you can imagine, these patients are  
6 feeling very vulnerable and are feeling scared.  
7 They trust that we, as the providers, are going  
8 to do everything in our power to make sure that  
9 they arrive safely with the best chance for a  
10 full recovery.

11 Many times we are called out to render care  
12 to patients suffering with cancer who are too  
13 sick to drive to the hospital or too sick to ride  
14 with family members. As caregivers, we want to  
15 give these patients the very best medical care.  
16 Many times these patients are transported to  
17 Silver Cross.

18 As you've already heard today, Silver Cross  
19 has been named one of the Top 100 hospitals in  
20 the country for the past six years for their high  
21 clinical quality, safety, and service to our  
22 customers.

23 Undoubtedly, Silver Cross is an excellent  
24 community hospital, but like many other area

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1 hospitals, they don't have all the services that  
2 are needed and readily available at large  
3 academic medical centers like the University of  
4 Chicago, especially when it comes to cancer care.

5 University of Chicago Medical Center is  
6 highly regarded by EMS professionals as one of,  
7 if not the best, Chicago area hospital for  
8 comprehensive cancer care. Because of their  
9 location, the patients we currently see don't  
10 have an opportunity to benefit from a lot of  
11 their expertise, which is unfortunate. However,  
12 if this application is approved, cancer patients  
13 will have access to two of the finest hospitals  
14 in the country close to home right here on Silver  
15 Cross replacement hospital campus in New Lenox.

16 Patients transported to Silver Cross and  
17 the EMS providers who are entrusted to provide  
18 high-quality care will be able to take advantage  
19 of the University of Chicago's protocols,  
20 therapies, and treatment both in the field and  
21 upon arrival to the hospital.

22 By improving access for our patients with  
23 the new facility, we'll be able to provide the  
24 very best cancer care treatment for Will and

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1 Grundy County residents.

2 On behalf of the Will-Grundy EMS system,  
3 thank you for your thoughtful consideration for  
4 what's best for our patients.

5 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Can you spell  
6 your name for the Court Reporter, please?

7 MR. POLHEMUS: P-o-l-h-e-m-u-s.

8 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Thank you.

9 Debra Hypke.

10 MS. HYPKE: Good morning. My name is  
11 Debra Hypke, and I'm the chief executive officer  
12 for the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce.

13 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Can you spell  
14 it for the Court Reporter, please?

15 MS. HYPKE: My last name is H-y-p-k-e.

16 On behalf of the Board of Directors and the  
17 business we serve, I'm here today to support the  
18 proposed cancer center on the Silver Cross  
19 Hospital replacement campus.

20 Bringing the expertise of the University of  
21 Chicago to our local community will be of great  
22 benefit to our members, especially those  
23 businesses with employees suffering from cancer.

24 Having the best treatment care available

1 right here in our community will be a tremendous  
2 help to patients, as well as to their friends and  
3 families who support them throughout their  
4 treatment. In addition, the close proximity of  
5 the cancer center will dramatically decrease lost  
6 work time for individuals who otherwise would  
7 have to leave the community for these life-saving  
8 cancer treatments and therapies.

9 Having a state-of-the-art cancer center  
10 nearby will help greatly -- will help already  
11 struggling businesses in our community.

12 Silver Cross Hospital has been a valuable  
13 and active member of the Chamber for many years.  
14 Silver Cross has provided leadership at every  
15 level of our organization, including our board of  
16 directors, and has supported local businesses  
17 through the Chamber's numerous activities. We  
18 continue to support and watch the construction of  
19 the replacement hospital in anticipation of the  
20 opening in early 2012.

21 Now, with the addition of the  
22 state-of-the-art cancer center, we are excited  
23 about the possibility of even more jobs in our  
24 community and the renewal of new revenue, both of

1 which will ultimately strengthen our local  
2 economy.

3 We are confident that the partnership  
4 between the University of Chicago Medical Center  
5 and Silver Cross Hospital will give local  
6 business owners, our members, their families and  
7 patrons convenient access to the best cancer  
8 treatment while enhancing the overall quality of  
9 health care in our region.

10 Therefore, on behalf the New Lenox Chamber  
11 of Commerce, we strongly urge you to approve the  
12 cancer center at Silver Cross. Thank you for  
13 your consideration.

14 (Applause.)

15 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Carol  
16 Banas-Hicks.

17 MS. BANAS-HICKS: My name is Carol  
18 Banas-Hicks, and I am a member of the board of  
19 directors of the Will County Senior Service  
20 Center.

21 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Spell your  
22 name for the Court Reporter, please.

23 MS. BANAS-HICKS: B-a-n-a-s, dash,  
24 H-i-c-k-s.



1           reside at 1163 Yamma Ridge in New Lenox,  
2           Illinois.  Additionally, I serve as the economic  
3           development director for the Village of New  
4           Lenox, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak  
5           today to offer my support to both Silver Cross  
6           Hospital and the University of Chicago Medical  
7           Center for their upcoming cancer treatment center  
8           project that is designated for the development at  
9           I-355 and U.S. Route 6 interchange on the new  
10          Silver Cross Hospital campus.

11                        At the age of 13 and over 40 years ago I  
12                        was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma.  I  
13                        received numerous types of treatment and took  
14                        many different medications, but the condition and  
15                        symptoms remained.  Can you imagine the fear that  
16                        I endured when my doctor explained to me the  
17                        probable outcome of my condition and the worry of  
18                        my mother for the safety and future well-being of  
19                        her oldest child?

20                        Cancer was a likely death sentence in the  
21                        late 1960s for children with the diagnosis that I  
22                        received, and treatments were generally  
23                        unsuccessful, and mortality rates were very high.

24                        Mortality.  I was one of the few and

1           fortunate survivors of this disease at that early  
2           age and time, as my surgery and treatments  
3           provided me to be successful.

4                       And this reminds me of a poem that I  
5           remember as a child as I waited for the  
6           treatments and surgery to heal me.

7                       "What we call luck is simply pluck in doing  
8           things over and over.

9                       "Courage and will, perseverance and skill  
10          are the four leaves of luck's clover."

11                      The New Lenox area is blessed and grateful  
12          that Silver Cross Hospital has formulated a  
13          relationship with the University of Chicago for  
14          their proposed cancer treatment center.

15                      Silver Cross Hospital has invested time and  
16          money in order to provide essential health care  
17          services for many decades in the New Lenox and  
18          Joliet area. This commitment is strengthened by  
19          the partnership that was recently forged with the  
20          University of Chicago to offer expanded cancer  
21          treatment care and services in both our local  
22          community and the expansive Will County area.

23                      The addition of the University of Chicago  
24          cancer treatment center on the new Silver Cross

1 Hospital replacement campus will eliminate the  
2 inconvenience and uncertainty that patients  
3 encounter when no specialized local treatment  
4 centers are available to the victims of the  
5 strong and sometimes deadly grip of cancer.  
6 Cancer patients will now have the opportunity to  
7 receive specialized treatments and procedures on  
8 the local Silver Cross Hospital campus and  
9 eliminate the unnecessary need to travel long  
10 distances to unfamiliar areas for cancer care.  
11 The quality of life for future cancer patients  
12 will be enhanced with the services of the  
13 University of Chicago and eliminate the  
14 uncertainty for families who, instead, can now  
15 focus on the healing of their afflicted family  
16 member.

17 HEARING OFFICER HALL: You're going  
18 to have to wrap it up.

19 MR. LOWMAN: I'm getting there.

20 Quality of life is enhanced by the  
21 availability of essential and specialized health  
22 care services. This vital benefit will act as a  
23 catalyst for future growth and development of  
24 necessary services both in the health care

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1 profession and other supportive activity and  
2 services, as well.

3 The University of Chicago is the most  
4 qualified health care provider available to team  
5 with Silver Cross Hospital to provide cancer  
6 treatment care in our community.

7 I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and  
8 Services Review Board to review this application  
9 in a prudent and timely manner in order that  
10 construction of the cancer treatment center is  
11 completed to coincide with the opening of the  
12 Silver Cross Hospital replacement facility in  
13 February 2012.

14 It is unfortunate that any person or family  
15 is faced to endure the physical and mental pain  
16 and anguish that is associated with the diagnosis  
17 of cancer and the treatment of this now highly  
18 curable disease.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to offer  
20 these comments, and I look forward to the future  
21 opening of the Silver Cross Hospital and  
22 University of Chicago cancer center on our local  
23 campus in February 2012.

24 Thank you.

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1 (Applause.)

2 HEARING OFFICER HALL: George Mahoney.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He'll have written  
4 submission.

5 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Beverly Allbert.

6 (No response.)

7 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Larry Walsh.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Obviously, I'm not  
9 Larry Walsh. He had to go to Springfield, and he  
10 asked me to read his letter into the record for  
11 him. This is on behalf of Larry Walsh, our Will  
12 County Executive.

13 "I'm writing to express my overwhelming  
14 support for the University of Chicago Cancer  
15 Center at Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox.  
16 Will County residents who are suffering with  
17 cancer along with their families and friends who  
18 support them throughout their diagnosis and  
19 treatment will benefit greatly from the proposed  
20 facility.

21 "Will County continues to be one of the  
22 fastest growing areas in Illinois. In fact, it  
23 is estimated that by 2014 we will have more than  
24 750,000 residents, many age 65 and older.

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1                   "Today one of the leading causes of death  
2                   in Will County is cancer, a disease affecting  
3                   primarily older people. Yet 70 percent of cancer  
4                   patients are leaving the area for care. Bringing  
5                   one of the best cancer programs in the nation to  
6                   the new Silver Cross Hospital campus seated in  
7                   the heart of our county would save these patients  
8                   long and oftentimes frequent commutes to  
9                   unfamiliar locations.

10                   "The University of Chicago Medical Center  
11                   is highly regarded and, according to the U.S.  
12                   News and World Report, is consistently ranked as  
13                   one of the best cancer hospitals in the nation.  
14                   Silver Cross Hospital has been recognized a  
15                   "100 Top Hospital" award winner for the last  
16                   six consecutive years and is one of the leading  
17                   providers of health care in the area. Combined,  
18                   these two hospitals will expand access, improve  
19                   coordination, and enhance the overall quality of  
20                   cancer care that is available in our county.  
21                   Silver Cross and the University of Chicago  
22                   Medical Center are making significant investments  
23                   in facilities and equipment to bring the best  
24                   cancer care to Will County.



1 really grateful that I did that. I did get  
2 the job.

3 As a volunteer -- and I'm still  
4 volunteering -- we see patients as they come into  
5 the hospital and as they leave, and the amount of  
6 love that our hospital gives our patients is just  
7 phenomenal.

8 The month of June my daughter-in-law was  
9 diagnosed with breast cancer, and it's been  
10 really hard for us because it's been the first  
11 one in our family to ever get this illness, and  
12 we've been struggling very hard with it, as I'm  
13 struggling today.

14 I know that there's other facilities in  
15 Joliet, but it seems like in order to get the  
16 best care you want to go to the big cities. And,  
17 of course, with going to the big cities, it's  
18 travel. And I've heard people talk about  
19 traveling today and it's not -- doesn't sound  
20 like a fun thing to do.

21 So I am very in support of this facility.  
22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Laney Huda.

1 (No response.)

2 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Ann Coutcher.

3 MS. COUTCHER: My name is Ann

4 Coutcher, A-n-n, no E, C-o-u-t-c-h-e-r, but you  
5 can all call me Annie.

6 As I am not accustomed to public speaking,  
7 I would like to take a few moments of your time  
8 to tell you my personal story.

9 In August 2009 I was diagnosed with  
10 Stage II breast cancer. Obviously, I was scared  
11 out of my mind. My father passed away from  
12 cancer, and my mother was a 23-year survivor of  
13 breast cancer. Yet still I was thrown headfirst  
14 into a world I had no desire to be in.

15 Upon testing and surgery my team and myself  
16 decided that chemotherapy was not necessary, just  
17 radiation. I hate when people say "just  
18 radiation."

19 For approximately 6 1/2 weeks I had to wake  
20 up every morning, take a shower, put on my face,  
21 do my hair in order to drive to Silver Cross and  
22 get my treatment. Some days were more difficult  
23 than others, and when those days occurred,  
24 Dr. Asaad and her staff were there for me. Not



1 but the best from Silver Cross and Joliet, and I  
2 don't see the need to have anything else but what  
3 we already have and what we've already been  
4 having. All the comprehensive treatment,  
5 including image-guided radiation therapy and  
6 everything else that goes with cancer, we have it  
7 right here in our own backyard.

8 Thank you very much.

9 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Jacqueline  
10 Wronski.

11 MS. WRONSKI: My name is Jacqueline  
12 Wronski, W-r-o-n-s-k-i. I am not a public  
13 speaker. I did not intend to speak here but I  
14 have to.

15 I am here because about 12 years ago my  
16 husband passed away from cancer. My journey  
17 began about 3 1/2 years or so years before that.  
18 He was diagnosed with an advanced case of  
19 prostate cancer.

20 We went all over. We went to California;  
21 we went to Mexico; we went to different states --  
22 I can't even remember all the places -- to get  
23 all the information because everybody says you  
24 have to make an informed decision. True. And

1           you have to have the facilities that are where  
2           you can get to. And what I found out later is  
3           it's not just where you go and who the doctor is,  
4           but you have to be able to get the care that you  
5           need in your area where you live.

6                     He struggled for 3 1/2 years. He passed  
7           away in '96 at the end of the year -- I mean at  
8           the end of '96. At that time I had been with him  
9           almost all the time, especially in the last year.  
10          I quit work to be with him, and we went all over.  
11          We went for treatments all the way to Glenview  
12          Hospital -- yes, Glenbrook Hospital in Glenview.

13                    I am not a driver. I drive when I have to  
14          go on my little trips to the mall and that's  
15          about it. He was the driver. He could have been  
16          a truck driver -- he wasn't but he could drive.  
17          He had to rely on me. So driving and arguing and  
18          praying was our routine going there all the time  
19          back and forth back and forth. I did it. I  
20          loved him. I'd do it today but I don't have him  
21          anymore.

22                    So then at the end of -- it was in July of  
23          '96. My husband was at the end stages. I had to  
24          be at the hospital; I had to take him there, and

1 we almost lived there. In fact, I did. I stayed  
2 there all week long for weeks. I came home one  
3 day a week to pay the bills, to look after the  
4 house, to get to sleep in my own bed instead of  
5 a cot.

6 But my daughter was diagnosed with  
7 Hodgkin's lymphoma in that same year. She left  
8 when he was diagnosed; she went to college. But  
9 in that year she had to come home because she was  
10 sick. I knew it. I knew it.

11 But anyway, getting back to my story about  
12 my husband, the traveling. She wound up with our  
13 doctors -- her doctor was on the far south side  
14 of Chicago. He had his own -- I'm sure probably  
15 like Dr. Asaad -- a small practice. He could do  
16 it all.

17 We went with that because that is what she  
18 wanted. She was 20 years old. That's what she  
19 wanted. I had to continue to take him to  
20 Glenbrook because that's what he needed. We  
21 had both.

22 We need to have these options. We can't  
23 just have -- I would get it again for my daughter  
24 to do what Dr. Asaad has set up. I loved it; she

1 loved it. She survived. She is a survivor but  
2 she was diagnosed because of -- early, early care.

3 My husband, he didn't make it, but we went  
4 the long route. We consulted with all the best  
5 doctors. We went to -- anyplace he wanted to go  
6 we did, but the results were going to be the  
7 same. But he was a fighter. He was a  
8 competitor. He was in sales. He was going to  
9 make it. He didn't. But we need both.

10 The University of Chicago Hospital gives  
11 people those options. Not everybody is going to  
12 want to go to that. They're going to need the  
13 personal care that you get at a small place with  
14 the best care there.

15 I don't see that it has to be one or the  
16 other. I think it has to be both because not  
17 everybody is going to want to do that; they're  
18 going to need the other. And I guess we're going  
19 to have to iron out what the differences are  
20 because we need both, the learning, the new care,  
21 and the loving, giving care also of the  
22 small ones -- which we give at Silver Cross  
23 Hospital. Because after my husband died, I  
24 became a volunteer at Silver Cross Hospital.

1                   I wanted to make a difference in my little  
2 tiny way of maybe just bringing a smile or  
3 shaking a hand or giving somebody a pat on the  
4 back or crying with them, which is what I do  
5 very well.

6                   I have done that for almost 11, 12 years --  
7 who is counting? -- I have been doing that at  
8 Silver Cross Hospital. I love the hospital. I  
9 love what they do, and I am so grateful that I  
10 went there with him -- my husband with the  
11 emergency care. That's how I got hooked there.  
12 And my daughter from the south side of Chicago  
13 with their personal care for her and they did  
14 everything.

15                   I'm telling you we need it all, and that's  
16 all I have to say. Thank you.

17   (Applause.)

18                   HEARING OFFICER HALL: I believe this  
19 is James -- the last name I think begins with an  
20 F, but it's kind of fancy so I can't figure  
21 it out.

22   (No response.)

23                   HEARING OFFICER HALL: Corey Singer.

24                   MR. SINGER: That's a hard one to

1 follow.

2 My name is Corey Singer. I'm a member of  
3 the Will County Board and president of the Forest  
4 Preserve District of Will County.

5 Today, though, I'm speaking as much as a  
6 citizen and a father and a husband as I am in the  
7 two roles that I mentioned earlier.

8 It's my pleasure to speak today in favor of  
9 and support Silver Cross Hospital in its  
10 partnership with the University of Chicago  
11 Hospital.

12 We have a lot to be thankful for in  
13 Will County. We are blessed in many, many ways.  
14 Our community is bountiful with blessings, and  
15 one of those is the leadership that Silver Cross  
16 Hospital has demonstrated in our community. Not  
17 only the leadership but the risks and the  
18 exceptional commitment that the hospital has had  
19 not only to our community as a whole but to  
20 individuals.

21 It strikes me as somewhat unusual that  
22 we're having this meeting. I think about the  
23 people and places throughout the world and the  
24 people and places in our own country would be so

1 joyous as to have an opportunity to have  
2 something like this brought into their community.  
3 I think about how they might -- they would be  
4 extraordinarily thankful for the opportunities  
5 that a partnership like this with the University  
6 of Chicago could bring to their community.

7 Maybe it's because in our community we have  
8 so many blessings we sometimes expect or get used  
9 to the things we have, but this is a tremendous  
10 opportunity that comes before us and a tremendous  
11 opportunity for those who will come after us.

12 To question the opportunities for this  
13 exceptional service and to question what this can  
14 bring to us I believe is not in the best interest  
15 of our community, certainly not in the best  
16 interests of our people. And while this is  
17 absolutely about people, this has nothing to do  
18 with any individual or any particular locale.

19 Will County is a big place. It's  
20 two-thirds the size of Rhode Island with a  
21 population larger than many states but we  
22 continue to grow. Our needs will continue to  
23 grow, and they will evolve and they will change,  
24 and as our community continues to change and we

1 continue to provide the services that a changing  
2 community requires, we will forever be healthier.

3 I pray my family and yours never needs the  
4 services of Silver Cross Hospital unless it's for  
5 a joyous occasion. I've been there twice for the  
6 birth of two children. I certainly pray that  
7 none of us needs the services from University of  
8 Chicago Cancer Center, but again to put this in  
9 perspective, I cannot imagine how someone around  
10 the world and throughout this country would react  
11 to the thought of us even questioning such a  
12 wonderful attribute and addition to our  
13 community.

14 Again, it's my pleasure, my privilege to  
15 support Silver Cross in their initiative to  
16 partner with University of Chicago, and I  
17 certainly urge the Board to support this, as well.

18 Thank you very much.

19 (Applause.)

20 HEARING OFFICER HALL: Honey Skinner.

21 MS. SKINNER: Good afternoon. I'm  
22 Honey Skinner, S-k-i-n-n-e-r.

23 The University of Chicago Medical Center  
24 and Silver Cross Hospital have appreciated the

1 opportunity to present this important project  
2 this morning and afternoon. We are grateful for  
3 the unprecedented support that has been expressed  
4 here by our community that we are privileged  
5 to serve.

6 As our testimony documents, literally  
7 hundreds of supporters have taken the time to  
8 communicate the importance of bringing cutting  
9 edge cancer care to the patients and families  
10 that are faced with a scary cancer diagnosis and  
11 who want to receive treatment at a location that  
12 is not disruptive to their lives, their jobs, and  
13 their families.

14 The University of Chicago and Silver Cross  
15 began this collaboration in response to the  
16 community's need for the very best in cancer  
17 treatment provided in a setting that is  
18 geographically accessible. At the present time,  
19 as you know from this testimony, an astounding  
20 70 percent of patients need to outmigrate from  
21 our community for inpatient care that is not  
22 available in this community.

23 Both institutions performed consumer  
24 research, and the results were the same.

1 Patients want care close to home but do not want  
2 to compromise in terms of their care. The many  
3 testimonies you've heard today, firsthand  
4 experiences of why the people left the community  
5 for care, are the reasons that this project is so  
6 desperately needed.

7 This care model -- bringing the best cancer  
8 care to patients where they live -- is being  
9 implemented around the country, as well as  
10 Illinois, in both cancer care and other clinical  
11 disciplines as hospitals take action in response  
12 to their patients' needs for the very best in  
13 medical care that should be used for their  
14 particular diagnosis.

15 Patients who are facing life threatening  
16 medical conditions want to make sure that their  
17 geographic remoteness from a premier academic  
18 medical center does not imperil their chances of  
19 regaining health.

20 The patients' testimony that's been  
21 submitted into the record corroborates the need  
22 for services close to home, and the application  
23 we've submitted and the testimony we've provided  
24 today documents the distinctive and additional

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1 services that will be available in our community  
2 as a result of this project.

3 These distinctive features include a  
4 true beam linear accelerator, which is the  
5 safest, most precise therapy now available, a  
6 broad spectrum of experimental clinical trials,  
7 Phase I, II, and III, with 353 clinical trials in  
8 process and residents of the University of  
9 Chicago medical faculty in this community and the  
10 critical designation that we're all so proud of  
11 as a comprehensive cancer care center designated  
12 by the National Cancer Institute, as you know,  
13 one of only two in Illinois.

14 In sum, the clinical care, research,  
15 prevention, education that will be provided by  
16 University of Chicago Medical Center hand-in-hand  
17 with Silver Cross' own hope and care treatment  
18 philosophy will bring the very best to our  
19 patients.

20 As our application details, the area's  
21 population is growing, and the incidence of  
22 cancer in our community is rising. It is not an  
23 acceptable response of our hospitals to be  
24 passive in response to the needs of our patients.

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1           The options and choice that this project will  
2           allow is in the best interests of this community.

3                   For the past year Silver Cross and  
4           University of Chicago have made concerted efforts  
5           to reach out to and respond to all concerns. The  
6           hundreds of letters of support submitted today,  
7           as well as the oral testimony offered here,  
8           reflect the comprehensive communitywide approach  
9           that we have taken in connection with this  
10          project. We are appreciative of that support,  
11          and we believe that our approach to all parties  
12          has been respectful, even when in a few instances  
13          we have been unable to come to full agreement on  
14          all issues.

15                   While it was our enduring hope that the  
16          widespread support that we have received would be  
17          unanimous, we remain, as ever, respectful of all  
18          of the professionals who have made their position  
19          known today and who have been our trusted and  
20          valued colleagues for over 20 years.

21                   Our hospitals are proud of the commitment  
22          to the communities they receive. In 2008  
23          University of Chicago accounted for more Medicaid  
24          admissions to any hospital in Illinois other than

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1           Stroger Hospital, and last year, as you know,  
2           Silver Cross contributed 7.5 million in  
3           charity care.

4                     In closing, the University of Chicago and  
5           Silver Cross would like to express its  
6           appreciation to all of you here today. We have  
7           submitted an application that we believe is in  
8           compliance with the relevant rules that govern  
9           need for this project, and we look forward with  
10          great anticipation to this exciting project.

11                    Thank you.

12                            HEARING OFFICER HALL: Is there  
13           anyone who wishes to testify who has not had the  
14           opportunity?

15    (No response.)

16                            HEARING OFFICER HALL: Well, I would  
17           like to thank the New Lenox Village Hall for the  
18           use of their facility today.

19                            I would like to remind everyone to submit  
20           your written comments to me so we have this  
21           information for the record.

22                            This project is scheduled for consideration  
23           by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services  
24           Review Board at its October 26th, 2010, meeting.

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1           The location for this meeting is still being  
2           determined, but it will be in Illinois. As a  
3           matter of fact, it should be at the -- that's  
4           September. So we won't speak yet on that.

5           Like I said, a location for this meeting is  
6           still being determined. The public has until  
7           October 6th of 2010 to submit written comments.  
8           These comments can be sent to my attention at the  
9           Illinois Department of Public Health, 525 West  
10          Jefferson Street, Second Floor, Springfield,  
11          Illinois 62761-001. If you prefer, you may fax  
12          your comments. Our fax number is (217) 785-4111.

13                   Are there any additional comments?

14                                   (No response.)

15                           HEARING OFFICER HALL: Hearing no  
16          questions or comments, I deem this public hearing  
17          adjourned.

18                   Thank you.

19                                   (Which were all the proceedings  
20                                   had in the above-entitled matter  
21                                   at the hour of 1:06 p.m.)

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STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 ) SS.  
COUNTY OF K A N E )

I, Paula M. Quetsch, Certified  
Shorthand Reporter No. 084-003733, CSR, RPR and a  
Notary Public in and for the County of Kane,  
State of Illinois, do hereby certify that I  
reported in shorthand the proceedings had in the  
above-entitled matter and that the foregoing is a  
true, correct, and complete transcript of my  
shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto set my  
hand and affixed my Notarial Seal this 20th day  
of September, 2010.



*Paula M. Quetsch*

Certified Shorthand Reporter  
Registered Professional Reporter

My commission expires  
October 16, 2013