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HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 20, 2016

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing this letter in support of the Master Design CON for a new comprehensive outpatient building on the Rush campus.

I am the Chairman of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at Rush University Medical Center.

I strongly feel that the new ambulatory building is essential to enhance the care of our patients and families for these specific reasons:

1. My patients often have a difficult time navigating the different locations inside the Professional Office Building. The lab, imaging and tunnel to the main hospital are in different buildings, different floors, and reached by specific elevator banks. This can be especially difficult for my disabled and elderly patients and can add to the challenge of coordinating efficient follow up visits and diagnostic testing.
2. As an ear, nose, and throat specialist treating patients in the hospital as well as outpatient setting, a significant amount of time is spent daily traveling from one location to another due to the complex configuration of the professional office buildings. The buildings at Rush offering outpatient services, research and education are in different, sometimes unconnected buildings.
3. A consolidated outpatient services building will allow for better coordination of care and scheduling by allowing for geographic proximity of related departments and divisions. This will serve to greatly enhance the care of my patients and result in increased satisfaction for their families.
4. The new outpatient building will improve access to exceptional care to the patient population in our surrounding community by replacing outdated, fragmented facilities in disparate locations with one transformative new facility designed around patient and community needs. This will be imperative for my Medicaid and charity care patients from the surrounding community.
5. The current parking structure is antiquated and is situated in the middle of the patient care buildings. It is congested because it serves visitors for outpatient and hospital services. The consolidation of outpatient services into one building will allow for the ultimate demolition of this outdated parking structure and better placement of future parking.

I would like to reiterate that the new ambulatory building will facilitate better team-based multidisciplinary care, improve patient outcomes, enhance coordination and scheduling of services and allow our patients and families to traverse our medical campus with greater ease.

Thank you for your consideration. Please reach out to me with any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Pete S. Batra, MD, FACS
Stanton A. Friedberg, MD, Professor and Chairman
Head, Section of Rhinology, Sinus Surgery, and Skull Base Surgery
Co-Director, Rush Center for Skull Base and Pituitary Surgery
Secretary, American Rhinologic Society
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