March 1, 2016

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator

Illinois Department of Public Health

525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposed to Application 16-001, Palos Comm. Hospital South Campus Expansion

Dear Ms. Avery:

As 11-year+ members of Palos Health & Fitness Center, we are writing to protest the proposed closing and demolition of PHFC, which is the only full-service, medically-based fitness center in our vicinity. We would add that the nearest facilities with any similarity to PHFC are located in Maywood and Chicago Heights, a minimum 40-minute drive for us. Needless to say, this is a prohibitive distance for most of us to travel to a fitness center, particularly for those members who are severely disabled and for whom the nearby PHFC is a veritable lifeline.

We are also upset at the way Palos Community Hospital has handled this matter, with very little regard for the 4,200+ people -- members and employees alike -- who will be detrimentally affected by this decision. Also, there is the issue of the hospital's lack of transparency with IL State Senator Bill Cunningham (D-18, Chicago), when it asked Sen. Cunningham for a letter of support for this project yet failed to tell him that the plan included the closing and demolition of PHFC. Therefore, lying by omission should not be rewarded with project approval.

Please note that we are not against the hospital's plans for the new medical office building, parking garage, and building connections to Palos Primary Care Center. However, it seems unconscionable that these plans include the demolition of a premier facility like PHFC instead of integrating PHFC into the plans.

In closing, we respectfully request that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny this application until it is amended to include the preservation of PHFC.

Sincerely yours,

Elwood Chevalier *Elwood Chevalier*

Joanne Chevalier *Joanne Chevalier*

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