



An Affiliate of the University of Chicago Medical Center

16-008

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February 17, 2016

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

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Support for University of Chicago Medical Center

Dear Ms. Avery:

As CEO of Friend Family Health Center, Inc. I am writing in strong support of University of Chicago Medicine's plan to increase access to emergency, specialty and trauma care for patients on the South Side of Chicago.

Many in our community lack the resources needed to ensure a strong quality of life, and it takes a connected system of providers working collaboratively to lift up our community. Our organization shares University of Chicago Medicine's commitment to strengthening our community.

While University of Chicago Medicine has international reach, it is a local hospital to those who live on the South Side, and one to which our community wants greater access. When illness strikes patients on the South Side, University of Chicago Medicine is often the first choice for care, particularly when the illness is serious, or patients have urgent care needs.

I urge you to approve this bold plan to increase access to the care South Side patients deserve, and allow University of Chicago Medicine to provide the same access to care that other local academic medical centers provide their communities.

Sincerely,

Verneda Bachus
Chief Executive Officer