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MATTIE HUNTER
MAJORITY CAUCUS WHIP
STATE SENATOR- 3RD DISTRICT

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

February 3, 2016

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761-1146

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing in strong support of the University of Chicago Medical Center's plan to increase access to care for patients on the South Side of Chicago. The plan includes a new adult emergency department, new inpatient beds to serve seriously ill patients, and a level I adult trauma center.

While the medical center serves patients from around the world, 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, UChicago Medicine is often the first choice for care, particularly when the illness is serious or patients have urgent care needs. The plan for new beds will allow the medical center to meet the growing need for inpatient care at the hospital.

Beyond impacting patients on the South Side, existing capacity constraints negatively impact our entire community health care system. Our community hospitals regularly seek to transfer their most complex cases to UChicago Medicine. But as UChicago Medicine grows fuller and fuller by the day, their ability to accept the patients from these community hospitals is limited.

The addition of a level 1 adult trauma center has been identified as a critical need by many in our community. Roughly half of all Chicago trauma cases occur on the South Side of Chicago, but there is currently no adult trauma center on the South Side. The addition of a trauma center will be a great asset for our community.

I urge you to approve the plan that will support a new trauma center, a new adult emergency department, and additional beds to support growing patient volumes.

Sincerely,

Mattie Hunter
Majority Caucus Whip
Illinois State Senator
3rd Legislative District

UCMC Board of Review File No: 16-008

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