

# Illinois State Senate

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**Kwame Raoul**  
State Senator · 13<sup>th</sup> District

February 11, 2016

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

**RECEIVED**

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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Ms. Avery:

I write in strong support of the University of Chicago Medical Center's plan to increase access to care for patients living in my district and throughout the South Side. 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 residents of the South Side. The plan for additional beds will allow it to meet the growing need and demand for inpatient care. And while roughly half of all Chicago trauma cases occur on the South Side, there is no adult trauma center located in this vast area of the city.

Existing capacity constraints also negatively impact our entire community health care system. Our community hospitals regularly request to transfer their most complex cases to University of Chicago Medicine. But as its facilities grow fuller each year, with a current average bed occupancy rate of 90 percent, its ability to accept these patients is limited.

University of Chicago Medicine has worked collaboratively with the communities I represent, as well as other Southside neighborhoods, to identify residents' unique health needs. The plan before you is thoughtful and integrated, encompassing emergency care, specialized medicine and trauma care.

I urge you to approve this plan, which I believe will increase access to the prompt, high-quality care South Side patients deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kwame Raoul".

Kwame Raoul  
State Senator, 13<sup>th</sup> District

*UCMC Board of Review File No: 16-008*

# ST. BERNARD HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE CENTER

326 WEST 64TH STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60621  
TELEPHONE 773.962.3900 FACSIMILE 773.602.3549

February 10, 2016

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

Re: Support for University of Chicago Medical Center

Dear Ms. Avery:

As President and CEO of St. Bernard Hospital & Health Care Center, an essential safety-net community hospital, I am writing in strong support of the University of Chicago Medicine's plan to reduce the disparities that exist in access to health care on the South Side.

Our hospital is proud to be on the front lines of care upon which our community depends. As a community hospital it is critical that we have the ability to transfer quickly and easily those patients who need a higher level of care to the nearest appropriate facility. Because of the current lack of available beds at the University of Chicago Medicine (UCM) we have had difficulty transferring more complex patients in our care to UCM even though it is the closest tertiary care facility to us that is equipped to handle these complex cases.

This past year we are aware that the University of Chicago Medicine reached 90% occupancy 310 days out of the year. On those days, our entire system of care was strained as UCM was forced to divert ambulances to other hospitals, and was unable to accept patient transfers from referring hospitals. In those instances, we were forced to transfer our patients to hospitals outside of our planning area, which required patients to travel further than they should have to travel for the care they need. By increasing the number of beds available to patients at UCM, the board would strengthen our entire network of care for Chicago's South Side.

Additionally, our community has unique health care needs and deserves stronger access to the academic medical center in our backyard. By offering increased access to specialty care and emergency and trauma services, UCM's plan will provide our community with access to the care they need and don't currently have available.

I urge you to approve the University of Chicago Medicine's integrated plan to invest in our community and strengthen our collective ability to care for patients on the South Side of Chicago.

Sincerely,



Charles Holland  
President & CEO

# 16-008

