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HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

1303 E. 53RD STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60615
773/687-0550

25TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
EX OFFICIO MEMBER
ALL HOUSE COMMITTEES

16-008

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I write 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 and deserves 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. The plan for new beds will allow the medical center to meet the growing need for inpatient care at the hospital.

Beyond affecting patients on the south side, existing capacity constraints harm our entire community health care system. Our community hospitals regularly seek to transfer their most complex cases to UChicago Medicine. But capacity constraints limit UChicago Medicine's ability to accept the patients from these community hospitals.

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 south side adult trauma center. The addition of a trauma center will be a great asset for our community.

UChicago Medicine has worked collaboratively with the whole community to identify the unique health care needs of south side patients. They have developed an integrated plan to meet needs in the service areas where the need is greatest: emergency care, specialized medicine and Level 1 adult trauma care.

I urge you to approve the plan that will allow the Medical Center to proceed with an important investment in our community.

Sincerely,


Barbara Flynn Currie
State Representative
25th District

UCMC Board of Review File No: 16-008



**Chicago
Urban League**

Opportunity. Community. Impact.

www.TheChicagoUrbanLeague.org

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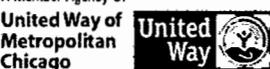
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MAR 09 2016

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

February 8, 2016

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

Re: Support for the University of Chicago Medical Center

Dear Ms. Avery:

At the Chicago Urban League, we are dedicated to working for economic, educational, and social progress for African Americans. This is why we are thrilled UChicago Medicine announced their Get CARE plan to address disparities that exist in access to healthcare on the South Side of Chicago.

Beyond trauma care, patients on the South Side have unique health care needs, yet fewer resources are available to meet those needs. African Americans have lower five-year survival rates than whites for most cancers, and that difference often comes down to access to high-quality medical care.

Through Get CARE, UChicago Medicine plans to give patients the access to care they want and need, restoring the hospital to the size it was in the late 1970s. Our community members should not have to travel on a bus for hours to get the treatment they need when world-class care is available in our backyard.

The Chicago Urban League is proud to support UChicago Medicine and the Get CARE plan to provide equal access to health care across Chicago's South Side. We ask that you approve this indivisible plan to ensure South Side residents have the quality care they need for today, for tomorrow, and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Shari Runner
President and CEO

UCMC Board of Review File No: 16-008