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May 12, 2011

**RECEIVED**

MAY 16 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing in support of the application of Advocate Christ Medical Center and Hope Children's Hospital for the construction of a badly needed Ambulatory Pavilion. I am the Chair of the Governing Council of these two stellar institutions and am in my 9<sup>th</sup> year serving on the Governing Council. I am also an attorney who works with health care systems and other providers across the country.

Over my 9 years on the Governing Council, I have witnessed stunning growth in the demand for health care services at Christ and Hope. Throughout this period, Christ and Hope have reconfigured existing space countless times to add capacity to serve the community. And in each case, patient demand increased to fill the newly-created space. Christ and Hope have run out of space, and the patients keep coming. They choose Christ and Hope because of the compassionate and outstanding care they receive but the existing space constraints interfere.

The Ambulatory Pavilion is critical to Christ and Hope's mission to serve the health care needs of the community. The Pavilion adds essential space that will enable Christ to serve more patients, provide a better patient experience, and improve operational efficiencies and manage costs.

The Ambulatory Pavilion is a considerable investment—one that Advocate Christ Medical Center, Hope Children's Hospital and Advocate Health are committed to making because it is vital to meeting the community's health care needs. I urge the Board to approve the Ambulatory Pavilion.

Sincerely,



Mark D. Nelson

MDN