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Mr. Dale Galassie, Chair
 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
 525 W. Jefferson St. 2nd floor
 Springfield, IL 62761

HEALTH FACILITIES &
 SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Mr. Galassie,

Access to Care is a 22 year old organization committed to providing healthcare access for those who are uninsured and ineligible for government programs. We have provided primary care to over 103,000 unduplicated individuals through arrangements with voluntary participant physicians, providers of pharmacy, laboratory, and radiology services, and with the significant assistance of Cook County and the Cook County Health & Hospitals System. Almost all our patients reside in suburban Cook County. In 2011 we will serve approximately 6,000 suburban Cook County residents with a budget of \$3,103,000. Our budget this year has been reduced by the absence of a State of Illinois appropriation of \$3,000,000 a year.

For many years the Cook County Health & Hospitals System has supported Access to Care financially, and, equally important, by providing specialty care and specialty diagnostics for our patients. While Access to Care provides primary care for our patients, when they need specialty care and specialty diagnostics they are referred to Stroger Hospital.

The expansion of specialty care and specialty diagnostics at the Oak Forest campus would greatly benefit Access to Care patients who live in the southern suburbs, who would no longer have to travel the considerable distance to Stroger Hospital.

Access to Care was at many of the 14 public town hall meetings at which the CCHHS Strategic plan was discussed. I believe that the plan attempts to make best use of the System's limited resources to assure maximum access for safety net patients. The plan responds to many of the concerns raised at the public meetings about geographical distribution of the System's specialty care and diagnostic services. The Strategic Plan was modified in order to respond to concerns raised by the public.

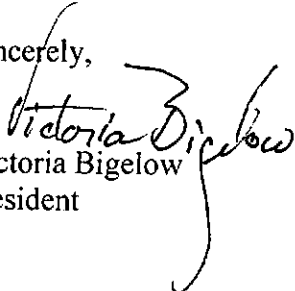
Suburban Primary Health Care Council*

* A not-for-profit organization founded by: the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc.; the Cook County Department of Public Health; the Northwest Suburban Cook County Health Care Task force; and the Park Forest Health Department.

A United Way Agency

Access to Care was founded on the idea of regionalism. As a longtime provider of healthcare to those in need, Access to Care urges the Illinois State Planning and Services Review Board to approve the application for permit from CCHHS. By transitioning its limited resources from costly inpatient care to a greatly expanded ambulatory care, this great municipal safety net provider, Oak Forest Hospital, seeks to address on of the large gaps in healthcare for the poor, specialty care access.

Sincerely,


Victoria Bigelow
President