



TRANSFORMING COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**Administrative Offices**

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Tommy Fitzgibbon
Chairman

Donna Thompson
Chief Executive Officer

February 12, 2016

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

Re: Support for University of Chicago Medical Center

Dear Ms. Avery:

As Chief Executive Officer for Access Community Health Network (ACCESS), I am writing in strong support of UChicago Medicine's plan to increase access to emergency, specialty and trauma care for patients on the South Side of Chicago.

Many in our community lack the resources needed to ensure a strong quality of life, and it takes a connected system of providers working collaboratively to lift up our community. Our organization shares UChicago Medicine's commitment to strengthening our community.

While UChicago Medicine has international reach, it is a local hospital to those who live on the South Side, and one to which our community wants, and needs, greater access. There is a scarcity of emergency care on the South Side of Chicago, even though there's more need for it than in some other parts of the city.

ACCESS' mission is to provide outstanding preventive and primary health care, accessible to all in their own communities. ACCESS' services address the health of underserved communities in such areas as preventive care, chronic disease management, and support services. ACCESS is the largest provider of primary care for Medicaid beneficiaries in Illinois and provides more primary care annually than the Cook County Health System. This year, our 36 community health centers, located throughout Cook and DuPage counties, will serve more than 181,000 low-income individuals.

I urge you to approve this bold plan to increase access to the care South Side patients deserve, and allow UChicago Medicine to provide the same access to care that other local academic medical centers provide their communities.

Sincerely,

Donna Thompson
Donna Thompson
Chief Executive Officer

UChicago Board of Review File No: 16-008