

19-024



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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

June 12, 2019

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

It is my honor to represent Advocate Aurora Illinois Masonic Medical Center in the Chicago City Council and have Masonic as a partner in the growth of my community. As the dynamics of health care continue to change, it is more important than ever that our hospitals and health resources evolve to provide first-class medical care for our residents. We are proud to have Masonic in our community and I support their efforts for growth and modernization.

The next phase of their development revolves around the construction of two new buildings. The first is a new Outpatient Physical Therapy Center with a structured parking garage over it, located at the corner of Wellington and Sheffield Streets. The second is a new medical office building on the corner of Wellington and Mildred that will house a Counseling Center and Pediatric Development. I believe both of these additions are sorely needed and will allow the hospital greater flexibility when planning and re-purposing their existing spaces.

Masonic has a long record of service in our community. From meeting the needs of the AIDS epidemic early in the 1980's, to being a leader in patient safety and serving as the only Level 1 Trauma Center on the north side of Chicago.

I am proud to support their application and would be happy to discuss their role in our community further.

Sincerely,

Thomas Tunney  
44<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman

19-024



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Advocate Children's Hospital

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 HEALTH FACILITIES &  
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advocatechildrenshospital.com

6/16/19

To The Administrator of the Illinois Health and Facilities Review Board:

I am writing this letter of support for Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in filing a recent Certificate of Need (CON) for a building on their campus called "The Wellness Center". As the Chief Medical Officer of Advocate Children's Hospital, I am quite familiar with "The Pediatric Developmental Center" (PDC), one of the programs that will occupy this new space.

The PDC is a flagship program of Advocate Children's and provides essential services to children with developmental concerns including autism. The PDC has been serving the needs of the great Chicago community for more than 25 years and is seen as the premier program in the State of Illinois. The following are just a few accomplishments of the PDC.

- In 2018 alone, the PDC provided 21,728 visits to 2,945 children.
- The PDC is known for its highly respected autism program. Researchers and public health experts now estimate that 1 in 59 children have autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Individuals with ASD require highly-specialized, comprehensive intervention, and generally over their whole lifetime. When services are initiated early, typically between ages 2-6 years, behavioral symptoms associated with ASD can be moderated and functionality, cognition, language skills and social aptitude can significantly improve.
- The PDC is known for providing bilingual, bicultural services. Forty-seven percent of our clinicians and associates are bilingual.
- The PDC is known for working with all families regardless of their ability to pay. In 2018, the PDC's payor mix was 44% Public Aid, reflecting an increase from 39% in 2017.
- The PDC is currently housed in 11,100 square feet of space. Given our space limitations, wait lists are lengthy for evaluation and treatment. Evaluation for developmental disorders can be up to a 2 year wait. For school-age children, wait times for coveted after-school and Saturday therapy slots can easily exceed a year.

"The Wellness Center" will provide the PDC with more therapy rooms for individual and group therapy. It will have updated gym space for motor therapies. It will have a new infant therapy room for babies newly discharged from the neo-natal intensive care unit as well as meeting space for high-risk mothers and their new babies. The new space will have a comfortable waiting room that allows separation between babies/toddlers and adolescents/young adults. We will have dedicated spaces for teenagers and young adults, and modifiable spaces for trainings and large-group events.

I highly support the CON approval for this project. The new space will provide the ability to serve more families in a comfortable and developmentally appropriate environment. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Frank Belmonte  
 Chief Medical Officer – Advocate Children's Hospital