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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

May 20, 2019

Dear Administrator of the Illinois Health Facilities and Review Board,

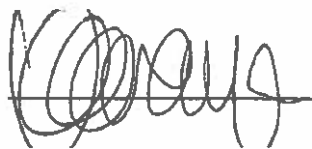
With great pleasure, I write this letter to strongly support the plans for the Wellness Center, the proposed expansion of the Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. I am very familiar with the outstanding comprehensive services that the Pediatric Developmental Center (PDC) provides. As a practicing board-certified developmental pediatrician and internist, I routinely refer patients to the PDC for care. As the director of the Illinois Leadership Education and Neurodevelopmental and other related Disabilities (LEND) program, PDC has been a partner in training future professionals to care for individuals with developmental disabilities across the lifespan. Funded through the Maternal Child Health Bureau, Illinois LEND is an interdisciplinary graduate level program designed to develop leaders in the disability-related health fields. Illinois LEND is part of a nationwide network of 52 LEND programs in the country.

The proposed new building would address the growing community need for developmental care and build much needed capacity to care individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. Moreover, the increased space that the new building would afford the PDC would allow the PDC the opportunity to invest in new initiatives and programs. For example, it would facilitate additional partnerships around telehealth and teleconsultations to pediatricians working in underserved areas. It would also allow for greater differentiation for services based on age including expansion of services for adolescents, which are a very underserved population.

I look forward to continuing to collaborate with the PDC. The new building would strengthen these collaborations and allow for additional opportunities. Therefore, I fully support the PDC's plans for expansion.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or if further information is needed.

Sincerely,



Kruti Acharya, MD
Director, Illinois LEND
Assistant Professor, Department of Disability and Human Development and Pediatrics