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ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
DAVID KOEHLER
STATE SENATOR · 46TH DISTRICT
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

RECEIVED

DEC 11 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

December 9, 2019

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
c/o Courtney Avery, Administrator
525 W Jefferson St, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Letter of Support for Comprehensive Cancer Center and Proton Therapy

I ask that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board approve OSF HealthCare's plans to establish a comprehensive cancer center in Peoria which will include the installation of a proton beam for less invasive radiation therapy.

As the state Senator for the 46th district, addressing my constituents' concerns is of the utmost importance to me. Cancer is a top health concern for our community. As newly diagnosed cancer cases increase, the need for therapy grows. In the Peoria area alone, public health experts predict more than 5,000 new adult cancer diagnoses in 2023.

Bringing state-of-the-art proton beam therapy to Central Illinois will improve health outcomes and prevention efforts. With only one other similar proton beam service in Illinois, the establishment of this program within a comprehensive cancer center in Peoria will provide access to people who are unable to effectively relocate to Chicago for a course of treatment and will also improve outcomes and reduce the cost of hospitalizations resulting from adverse outcomes and side effects that are sometimes associated with traditional radiation therapy.

OSF HealthCare makes Peoria a better place to live and my constituents rely on it, particularly those who are vulnerable due to illness or those who have difficulty accessing prevention and screening services due to income and insurance limitations. My constituents and I value the good work that OSF HealthCare is doing in cancer care, and urge you to approve this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Koehler".

David Koehler
IL State Senate – 46th District
Assistant Majority Leader