

**MINORITY SPOKESPERSON**  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE



**CHUCK WEAVER**

ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR • 37TH DISTRICT  
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**DEC 16 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 am writing this letter to ask that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board approve of 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 State Senator of the 37<sup>th</sup> 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,

Chuck Weaver  
Senator - 37<sup>th</sup> District

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