



LOYOLA
MEDICINE

William Small, Jr., M.D., FACRO, FACR, FASTRO
Professor and Chairman, Radiation Oncology
Director, Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center

December 30, 2019

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
c/o Courtney Avery, Administrator
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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

As Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology and Director of the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center, Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University Chicago, I am writing to express my support of the plans by OSF Saint Francis Medical Center to establish a comprehensive cancer center and offer proton beam therapy to meet the needs of the residents of central Illinois.

Bringing proton beam radiation therapy for cancer treatment to central Illinois will support health care across the region, and improve overall health outcomes. This next-generation treatment is the most advanced technology available for shrinking cancer cells while avoiding unnecessary radiation to surrounding organs or tissue.

With only 32 proton therapy centers in North America and only one in Illinois, the establishment of proton beam therapy within a comprehensive cancer center in Central Illinois will improve care coordination and alleviate the burden of traveling for patients with cancer and their families.

Furthermore, the treatment provided with this advanced technology is exceptionally fast, and will improve the care that medical professionals can provide to our local community. As a physician, I can assure you that access to consistent, multidisciplinary expertise translates into greater efficiency and cost savings.

I stand with OSF HealthCare in supporting patients with cancer, survivors, and their families. I value the involvement, insight, and good work that OSF HealthCare is doing in cancer care, and urge you to approve this project that will ensure the population in this region has access to the support and care that best fits their needs.

Sincerely,

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