



# OSF<sup>®</sup> HEALTHCARE

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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 10, 2020

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 OSF HealthCare Comprehensive Cancer Center and Proton Therapy

Ms. Avery,

As the hospital president with a local community cancer center (OSF Moeller Cancer Center in Alton, IL), I am writing this letter to express my support for the plans of OSF HealthCare to establish a comprehensive cancer center and offer proton beam therapy to meet the needs of residents of central and downstate Illinois.

Bringing proton beam radiation therapy for cancer treatment to Peoria will support community-based cancer services across the region, and improve our collective health outcomes and prevention efforts. This next-generation treatment is the most advanced technology available for shrinking cancer cells while avoiding unnecessary radiation to surrounding organs or tissue. OSF HealthCare is a quaternary provider with the deepest expertise in complex medicine in the entire state of Illinois, outside of Chicago (Cook county).

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 Peoria will improve care coordination and alleviate the burden of traveling for patients with cancer as well as their families.

Furthermore, the treatment provided with this advanced technology will allow the medical community to expand the offerings we can provide to our patient base and communities at large. As providers, our access to consistent, multidisciplinary expertise translates into greater efficiency, better outcomes and cost savings.

OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center and the Moeller Cancer Center (Alton, IL), stand with OSF HealthCare in supporting patients with cancer, survivors, and their families. We value the involvement, insight, and good work that OSF HealthCare is doing in cancer care, and urge you to approve this project to ensure the population in this region has access to the support and care that best fits their needs.

Sincerely,

Ajay Pathak  
President, OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center