



Office of the Regional Dean
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Peoria, Illinois 61605

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JAN 21 2020

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD
Meenakshy Aiyer, M.D., MACP
Interim Regional Dean

January 13, 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 Comprehensive Cancer Center and Proton Therapy

I am the Interim Regional Dean for the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria. I am writing this letter to express my support of the plans by OSF HealthCare to establish a comprehensive cancer center and offer proton beam therapy to meet the needs of residents of central Illinois.

The University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria educates over 500 students, residents and fellows each year. Furthermore, over 170 full-time faculty provide patient care that touches the lives of over 32,000 patients annually here in central Illinois. Much of the work is done with OSF HealthCare, one of our major academic partners.

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.

In addition to providing access to latest technology, having a comprehensive cancer center will help facilitate specialists from different disciplines and professions to work collaboratively to diagnose, evaluate, deliver treatment and support the patients and their families through the course of treatment and beyond. This opportunity for collaboration between OSF HealthCare and University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria will also bring together physicians from multiple disciplines, and help advance cancer research. This center will help educate the next generation of physicians – medical

students, residents from different disciplines in the approach to and management of patients with cancer. This multidisciplinary team approach to cancer care will enhance the quality, access to cancer care and provide a cost effective approach to the patients in the central Illinois.

I look forward to this needed enhancement to patient care in central Illinois. I value the continued collaboration with OSF HealthCare to advance 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Meenakshy Aiyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Meenakshy Aiyer, M.D., MACP
Interim Regional Dean