

Mile Square Health Center 1220 South Wood Street (MC698) Chicago, IL 60608

January 26, 2021

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Attn: Chairwoman Debra Savage 525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Honorable Members of the IHFSRB:

UI-Mile Square Health Center (MSHC) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) with multiple locations throughout the Chicagoland area. One of those locations is very close to the proposed Mercy Care Center at 4630 S. Bishop Street, Chicago, IL, 60609.

At UI-MSHC, we care for nearly 40,000 patients per year regardless of their ability to pay. We share a commitment with the Mercy Care Center to lower the health disparities in the African American community and look forward to partnering with them to improve services in the community.

As this Board undoubtedly knows, change needs to happen on the South Side of Chicago in delivering health care, and the Mercy Care Center can be part of that change. This center will have the capacity to provide care for up to 65,000 patients each year. Once opened, it can help us better treat chronic diseases, better coordinate care among the patients we serve, and deliver more cost effective and accessible urgent care and other outpatient services.

We urge the Board to approve the Mercy Care Center's application. We look forward to the center opening and being a coordinating partner for health care providers like UI-MSHC in the community.

Sincerel

Henry Taylor

**Chief Executive Officer** 

**UI-Mile Square Health Center** 

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