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*"Providing Health Access, Awareness & Advocacy"*

March 19, 2021

Courtney Avery  
Board Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Letter of Support- Mercy Hospital and Medical Center, Exemption #003-21

Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is Azher Quader, I am a physician and founder president of Compassionate Care Network, a 501c(3) nonprofit healthcare organization serving Chicago's underserved and marginalized community for the past two decades and which included those who are being served by Mercy Hospital & Medical Center.

Our work which includes providing affordable access to the uninsured and promoting preventive healthcare through regular free health screenings, has for long revealed to us the importance of creating a medical home to serve the healthcare needs of all people, regardless of their economic or legal status. A hospital and its services are an integral part of that picture, which is why we so passionately believe in keeping the doors of Mercy open.

Building a hospital is a work of generations, shutting it down is a momentous one, for those who come to depend upon it. While financial considerations are never to be ignored in the success of any business, we believe Insight Chicago's plan to restructure operations should be given an opportunity to revitalize the productivity of the hospital and protect its future.

We believe Dr. Shah and his team have the knowledge and necessary experience to bring about this change. Mercy Hospital is critical in the chain of compassion and caring for the many who are poor who live around it, but also for the many more who are undocumented and who otherwise have no coverage for their healthcare needs.

I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve Insight's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Azher Quader".

Azher Quader, MD.  
President