

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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KAM BUCKNER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
26TH HOUSE DISTRICT

January 31, 2022

Ms. Debra Savage
Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: University of Chicago Medicine - Cancer Center Project
Letter of Support

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Members of the Review Board:

I write to you in support of the University of Chicago Medicine's (UCM) application for a proposed Cancer Center Hospital. The proposed hospital will increase access to complex care for patients, offer convenient and compassionate care to neighborhoods where cancer is most prevalent, and bring a world class cancer facility to the South Side of Chicago.

Residents of the South Side of Chicago are twice as likely to die from cancer compared to almost anywhere else in the United States. Cancer is also the second leading cause of death in our communities.

We know that inequities in health outcomes related to cancer are largely a product of the social determinants of health, including access to cancer prevention and care. A new cancer facility will simply provide South Side residents with healthcare resources that other neighborhoods in the city often take for granted.

Today, over half of South Side patients leave our area for the complex care they require. Research shows delayed care is directly correlated with worse health outcomes. Living farther from healthcare facilities creates longer lengths of hospital stay, non-attendance at follow ups visits, and increased overall disease burden. The proposed facility will decrease the effects of delayed care for all South Side patients.

Building a world class cancer facility on the South Side will bring technologically advanced care incorporating the newest therapies and treatment innovations to a part of the city that has been historically underserved by the healthcare community. As one of

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only two NCI designated cancer facilities in the state of Illinois, a cancer center constructed by UCM stands to reimagine cancer care for the South Side and the entire city of Chicago.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and I hope you will vote to approve UCM's application to build a cancer hospital and transform the lives of so many families in my district and the entire city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kam Buckner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "B".

Rep. Kam Buckner
Illinois House of Representatives
26th Legislative District