

February 28, 2022

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

Dear Ms. Savage,

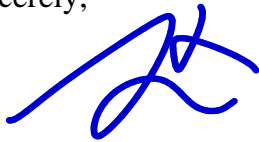
This letter is written in support of the Illinois Masonic Medical Center Bed Tower and Center for Advanced Care Expansion Project. Having practiced at this hospital since the late 1980s, I have seen a dramatic increase in the services that Illinois Masonic has provided to the community and its residents over the years. As a trauma surgeon and surgical intensivist, I have witnessed firsthand the quality patient care being provided by dedicated staff each and every day. That being said, the current bed tower and its critical care beds, semiprivate patient rooms and most of the operating rooms exist in a building that is over 50 years old.

Five decades of advancements in medicine bring with it the need for additional space and modernization in order to accommodate the significant increase in technology. The original design and construction methods of our existing building and OR suites do not allow for meaningful expansion of existing rooms. The recent pandemic illustrates how semi-private patient rooms no longer have a place in the delivery of modern healthcare.

The new bed tower will allow for all private patient rooms, improving the privacy for patients and their families. A large portion of one floor will be dedicated to intensive care and align resources that now span several floors in the existing structure. Interventional areas will be integrated into a single procedural floor allowing for the coordination of pre procedural and post procedure recovery. There will be a significant increase in the size of the operating rooms that will allow for flexibility of use and be ready for future advancements that may come along.

A hospital that has been dedicated to caring for the community for over 100 years is in need of a major overhaul. I urge you, along with the members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, to approve the certificate of need for the Illinois Masonic Medical Center Bed Tower and Center for Advanced Care Expansion Project. In doing so, we will be better prepared for the next pandemic and better positioned to carry out our healthcare mission for the next 100 years.

Sincerely,



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