

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

Dear Ms. Savage,

I am writing to ask the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center's Certificate of Need for the construction of a new bed tower and Center for Advanced Care Bed Tower Expansion Project.

I serve as the Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Illinois Masonic Medical Center. The labor and delivery, antepartum and postpartum units along with the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit are in drastic need of an update. Given the advances in optimizing medical unit architecture, and a lack of appropriate space in our current facility, there is no way to update these units other than by constructing a completely new building to house them.

Illinois Masonic is a State of Illinois Co-Perinatal Center and we offer tertiary maternal and neonatal care to our patients locally in addition to providing a continuum of outstanding care at all levels for our Women's Health patients throughout their lifetime. We proudly care for a wide range of patients across all demographics and there is certainly a need to modernize our facilities to give optimal care to both our maternal and neonatal patients. Given the proposed new design, we hope to offer our high-risk neonatal patients and their families improved privacy while giving them optimal, state of the art care. Modernizing our labor and delivery and our labor and delivery operating rooms would allow us to continue to provide optimal care and services for our community and hopefully allow us to extend this care to patients from other nearby communities in Chicago and Northeastern Illinois.

Beyond the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the addition of a new state of the art operating rooms would benefit all surgical patients but in particular would benefit critical trauma patients in the area, as we are a Level I Trauma Center. A significant volume of patients rely on Illinois Masonic Medical Center's skilled surgeons and the expertise of many other team members for lifesaving surgeries.

I respectfully urge the members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the Certificate of Need request for the construction of Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center's a new bed tower and Center for Advanced Care Bed Tower Expansion Project.

Thank you,



Thomas Iannucci, MD, CPE, FACOG
Chair, Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center
836 West Wellington Avenue
Chicago, IL 60657

