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March 14, 2022

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

**Re: Illinois Masonic Medical Center Bed Tower and Center for Advanced Care Expansion Project**

Dear Ms. Savage:

I am writing to express my strong support for Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center's ambitious Bed Tower and Center for Advanced Care Expansion Project. This expansion will significantly increase medical capacity and add vitally needed services that complement the care Esperanza Health Centers provides.

Esperanza Health Centers is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) operating on Chicago's under-resourced, predominantly-Latinx Southwest side. We operate five sites with a staff of over 300, serving more than 45,000 patients a year. By providing a full range of bilingual, culturally appropriate services, we commit to improving health equity in Chicago. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) repeatedly singled out our care for national recognition, bestowing their prestigious National Quality Leader Awards to us in four of the past five years. Last year, Esperanza was the only health center in Chicago, and only one of five in Illinois, to earn the award.

Illinois Masonic Medical Center's new development will have a significant impact on access to women's health services, expanding the care our trusted partner can provide to our patients. As you know, our service area on Chicago's Southwest side is particularly impacted by long-standing health disparities, as well as a dearth of accessible medical providers. Thus we welcome this important modernization of care at IMMC. This project fully deserves the approval of the Certificate of Need Board.

If you need any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Fulwiler", written over a horizontal line.

Dan Fulwiler, MPH  
President & CEO