

February 14, 2023

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 Advocate Ambulatory Surgery Center Chicago Webster 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. When I first started in surgery, the majority of operations being performed were primarily done on hospital inpatients. Over the years with advances in surgical techniques, the trend over time has been a significant increase in the number of extended recovery cases and ambulatory surgery cases. Patients in this last category undergoing either more complex procedures or those patients that have medical co-morbidities continue to be better served in our hospital outpatient setting. We have an ample volume of these cases along with all of our inpatient activity to keep our current hospital operating rooms full. In fact several surgeons currently have longer wait times trying to get these outpatient cases performed.

With the addition of new physicians to our staff and with the patients they bring, there will be a commensurate increase in the volume of ambulatory surgery cases as a result of this current and projected growth. We are fortunate to be in a diverse area of Chicago that draws patients from multiple populations requiring surgery that spans several surgical specialties.

In order to serve those additional patients we are seeking to construct the Advocate Ambulatory Surgery Center. Additional operating room capacity for this increase in volume will result in shorter wait times to surgery and will ultimately benefit our patients. This proposed center will be a multi-specialty center offering procedures in several surgical disciplines.

Constructing a facility that has the ability to house surgeons from multiple specialties including but not limited to colon and rectal, general, gynecology, otolaryngology (ENT), plastics, podiatry, and urology will enhance our ability to provide timely care to our patients.

I urge you, along with the members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, to approve the certificate of need for the Advocate Ambulatory Surgery Center Chicago Webster project. In doing so, we will be better positioned to carry out our healthcare mission.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Fantus, MD, FACS  
Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery  
Medical Director, Trauma, Surgical, and Perioperative Services  
Office: 773-296-3401  
Fax: 773-296-7199