

May 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I am writing with great enthusiasm to express my full support for the University of Chicago's proposal to build a dedicated cancer care and research facility in the Hyde Park community. After serving as my daughter's caregiver for the years during which she faced the challenges of living with cancer and receiving treatment for her disease, I understand the physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges patients and their families face. The challenges begin even before the diagnosis as the waiting for answers begins. They continue throughout treatment, hopeful periods of remission, and sadly, for my daughter, to death. A proposed facility would bring much improved facilities and care as patients navigate this difficult journey.

The building of this dedicated cancer care and research facility on the South Side is particularly important. It will send a message of commitment to a community which currently sees the majority of its residents leave the area for their cancer care. This new facility will provide additional resources other neighborhoods in the city often take for granted.

While the new facility will provide patients with advanced care in a manner which addresses all needs of a patient and their families, it will also allow for greater collaboration between clinicians and researchers as they work tirelessly to develop new cancer treatments. This research will notably build upon the University of Chicago Medicine's world-class cancer program, with its strong history of innovation and superior clinical expertise.

I strongly believe this dedicated cancer care and research center, built in Hyde Park, will bring hope to people across the community, city, state, and region. I see it as a critical way to address the needs of the thousands who are facing this devastating disease. I know how this facility would have improved the experience for my daughter and all those who cared for her. Please do take this important step in providing this facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sylvia Robertson". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sylvia" being more prominent than the last name "Robertson".

Sylvia Robertson