

Dear Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I am writing to express my full support of the University of Chicago Medicine's proposal to build a dedicated cancer care and clinical research facility in our community.

As a cancer survivor/patient, I understand firsthand the challenges, fears and uncertainties that come with the journey of fighting cancer. Our journey started 7 years ago with a 6 month diagnoses. Though we are not in the surrounding zip code, our voices should be heard for the need of a stand alone cancer facility. U of C research, trials and quality of their doctors attract far beyond the community . We are a leader in the cancer field . Approval for this project must be supported by the great city is will reside in.

Patients on the South Side do not have the same access to cancer prevention, diagnostics and care that residents in other parts of the city enjoy. In fact, statistics show that over half of South Side patients elect to leave the area to get the care they need. With cancer being the second leading cause of death in our communities and the incidence of cancer expected to rise across our region, we need a dedicated cancer care and research facility.

One of the great aspects of the proposed center is that it will build upon UChicago Medicine's world-class cancer program, which has a strong history of cancer innovation and superior clinical expertise.

The new facility will provide patients technologically advanced care — including the latest diagnostic and treatment innovations — while also facilitating and enhancing collaboration between clinicians and researchers to develop future innovations in cancer treatment and care. It will be a place where people can learn about cancer prevention and the need for early detection. The facility will be patient- and family-focused, designed to ensure all cancer services across the continuum of care are located on its medical campus, making the challenging obstacles facing patients and families more manageable.

A new facility will provide South Side residents with additional resources that other neighborhoods in the city often take for granted. It will bring hope to people across the city, state and region who are seeking the very best care, the latest clinical trials, and innovative therapies.

I firmly believe that such a dedicated cancer care and research center is of utmost importance for the well-being and future of individuals battling this devastating disease. We hope you help the City of Chicago take the important step in providing the care that patients like me need.

Sincerely,
Barbara and Wayne Pearson