



2325 EAST 71ST STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60649
TELEPHONE : (773) 324-5555
FAX: (773) 324-1585

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO
COUNCIL CHAMBER

THIRD FLOOR - CITY HALL
121 NORTH LA SALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
TELEPHONE : 312-744-6832

LESLIE A. HAIRSTON
ALDERMAN, FIFTH WARD

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January 19, 2023

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

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Members of the Review Board:

I am writing you today in support of the University of Chicago Medicine's (UCM) application for a proposed Cancer Center Hospital. The proposed hospital will increase access to complex care for patients, offer convenient and compassionate care to neighborhoods where cancer is most prevalent, and bring a world class cancer facility to the South Side of Chicago.

The new facility will offer access to new diagnostic and treatment innovations in cancer. Patients will benefit by having greater access to screening, clinical trials, and the latest therapies – anchored by pioneering research.

Residents of the South Side of Chicago are twice as likely to die from cancer compared to almost anywhere else in the United States. Cancer is also the second leading cause of death in our communities. Today, over half of South Side patients leave our area for the complex care they require. Research shows that delayed care is directly correlated with worse health outcomes. Living farther from healthcare facilities creates longer lengths of stay, non-attendance at follow up visits, and increased overall disease burden. The proposed facility will decrease the effects of delayed care for South Side patients.

As one of only two NCI designated cancer facilities in the state of Illinois, a cancer center constructed by UCM will reimagine cancer care for the South Side and the entire city of Chicago.

Sincerely,

Leslie A. Hairston
Alderman, Fifth Ward