



SSSRA
South Suburban Special
Recreation Association

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August 29, 2023

John Kneiry
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Support for CON Application 23-0034
Chicago Children's Surgery Center

Dear Mr. Kneiry:

On behalf of the South Suburban Special Recreation Association ("SSSRA"), I strongly and unequivocally support the certificate of need application from Chicago Children's Surgery Center.

SSSRA was formed in 1973 and has helped thousands of children and adults with special needs. We provide therapeutic recreation, some vocational training and supports, Inclusion services in need of park district programs. SSSRA services individuals with varying degrees of physical and intellectual disabilities. We serve individuals within the south suburbs of Cook County. Our member agencies include the park districts and recreation departments of Country Club Hills, Hazel Crest, Homewood-Flossmoor, Lansing, Matteson, Oak Forest, Olympia Fields, Park Forest, Richton Park, and Tinley Park.

While the special recreation association needs vary for each individual, a consistent challenge facing our participants is the lack of available dental surgical care. Children with special needs often face oral and maxillofacial issues, and many lack access to the dental services they need. When we learned that the Chicago Children's Surgery Center might open and provide an avenue other than the UIC Dental School, we were ecstatic. An additional provider of pediatric dental surgery would be a significant development for our participants, and we strongly implore the HFSRB to approve this project.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lisa Drzewiecki, CPRP
Executive Director
SSSRA