

September 26, 2024

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

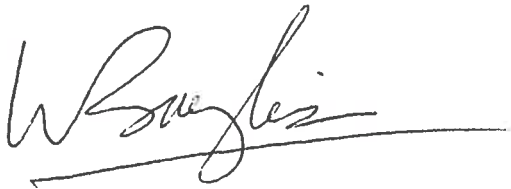
Dear Ms. Savage,

I am contacting you as Chief of Surgical Services at Advocate Christ Medical Center to acknowledge my support for the conversion project of 12 obstetric beds to 12 medical/surgical beds at Advocate Christ Medical Center. As a long-standing member of the medical staff, there has always been challenges on our physicians and surgeons with timely hospital bed access at Advocate Christ Medical Center. Predictable hospital bed access is crucial to provide care in a timely fashion and avoid unnecessary delays in critical medical and surgical interventions to our patients.

Advocate Christ Medical Center has experienced a decrease in deliveries that coincides with the national birth rate declines. In addition, inpatient patient days at Advocate Christ Medical Center have increased and are projected to continue to rise. With Advocate Christ Medical Center being the only tertiary/quaternary referral center and Level 1 trauma center in the region, the medical/surgical conversion project will help to improve access for the residents in the South Chicagoland Area. Patients residing in the region depend on Advocate Christ Medical Center for their higher level of care, as it is the hospital in the service area that admits the most critically ill patients.

I respectfully ask the Illinois Health Facility and Services review board to approve Advocate Christ Medical Center's medical/surgical conversion project.

Sincerely,



William J. Baylis, DO, DPM, FAOAO, FAAOS
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Chairman, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
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