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October 24, 2024

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

Dear Chairwoman Savage,

I write to respectfully request that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board approve project #24-028 at Advocate Christ Medical Center. Advocate Christ is an essential health care provider and employer in my district that serves more than 100,000 patients annually. It is one of the busiest Level 1 trauma centers in the Midwest and is a major referral center for the region. Advocate Christ serves more patients covered by Medicaid than almost any other hospital in the state—only UChicago Medicine does more Medicaid volume. It is essential safety net, and provider of wellness for the community.

Over the last several years, Advocate Christ has been bursting at the seams, and they continue to need to find ways to add more Med/Surg capacity to accommodate the volume and lessen wait times in the Emergency Department. Hospitals must change to meet the needs of their patients. The 12 OB beds being transitioned to Med/Surg have not been used as postpartum beds for some time, I'm told, but have been used for gynecological inpatient procedures, which could also be done using a Med/Surg bed. This change will bring critical flexibility for the hospital as they continue to meet the needs of their patients.

Please approve this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Cunningham", written over a horizontal line.

State Senator Bill Cunningham
Illinois State Senate