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January 17, 2025

Debra Savage
Chairwoman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I am writing to express my support for the new community hospital meant to replace Advocate Trinity Hospital on the South Side of Chicago, which is more than 100 years old.

St. Bernard Hospital is a safety-net facility serving a population significantly affected by long-standing health inequities. Data state a stark 30-year life expectancy gap between Chicago's North and South Sides, and much higher incidence of chronic disease. These disparities are often linked to a lack of access to care, and especially high-quality care and regular, convenient connection to specialists. A new replacement hospital would help address those gaps and also provide cutting-edge medical care, improve health outcomes, and significantly enhance the quality of life for everyone in our community.

St. Bernard Hospital and Advocate work together as part of the 13-provider network of the South Side Healthy Community Organization, and we have seen Advocate's commitment to our joint goals to build health equity and much better access to care and support for living healthier, longer lives. This new replacement hospital is a step in the right direction to provide comprehensive, high quality and coordinated care to our South Side patients so they don't continue to leave the South Side for what they might consider to be better or more high-tech options.

I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the Certificate of Need for this important project. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Holland".

Charles Holland
President and CEO
St. Bernard Hospital

