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January 24, 2025

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

Dear Chairperson Savage & Members of the IHFSRB,

On behalf of Cook County Health, I write to express support for Advocate Health Care's application to build a new hospital on the former USX site. The project they have submitted represents a transformative moment for a community that has long faced significant health disparities, economic disinvestment, and environmental injustices.

Advocate Health Care's plan to expand access to primary and specialty care, build a state-of-the-art, carbon-neutral hospital, and address social determinants of health marks a critical breakthrough in addressing these challenges. The new hospital will help address longstanding systemic inequities faced by Chicago's far South Side residents that have perpetuated poor health outcomes and reduced life expectancy.

This initiative is not only a commitment to health equity but also a powerful symbol of environmental justice. The proposed all-electric hospital, which will be LEED-certified and environmentally sustainable, will transform a site that has long been a symbol of neglect into a beacon of progress and opportunity.

The integration of health care, wellness, and sustainability into one cohesive plan will undoubtedly create lasting benefits for the community and serve as a model for addressing inequities. Cook County Health urges the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve this transformative proposal.

Sincerely,

Erik Mikaitis, MD, MBA  
Chief Executive Officer