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“The Community Church for ALL People”

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,

As the Senior Pastor of New Spiritual Light Baptist Church, I am honored to support Advocate's \$1 billion investment in the South Side of Chicago. This initiative is a significant step towards closing the 30-year life expectancy gap between the South and North Sides, demonstrating a profound commitment to our community's health and well-being.

The creation of 10 new Neighborhood Care locations in familiar spaces like our churches and community centers ensures accessible healthcare. Advocate's investment in managing chronic diseases and addressing social determinants of health is vital for our community.

The recent opening of a walk-in clinic near Advocate Trinity Hospital and plans to expand specialty care and use technology to reduce wait times show Advocate's dedication to improving access to care. The new state-of-the-art hospital at the former U.S. Steel South Works site will provide advanced treatments and high-quality care tailored to our community's needs.

At New Spiritual Light Baptist Church, we believe in the power of community and mutual support. Advocate's project honors our strengths and addresses critical health disparities. We are eager to collaborate to enhance the health and wellness of the South Side.

With appreciation and optimism,

Rev. Dr. Walter P. Turner, III
Senior Pastor
New Spiritual Light M. B. Church
