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January 13, 2025

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

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

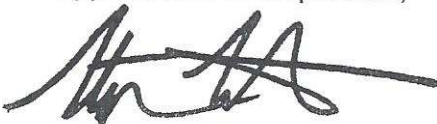
As the Pastor of New Covenant M.B. Church, I am honored to express our strong support for Advocate's \$1 billion investment in the South Side of Chicago. This initiative is a significant step towards closing the 30-year life expectancy gap between the South and North Sides, and it shows a deep commitment to the health of our congregation and community.

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

The new walk-in clinic near Advocate Trinity Hospital and plans to expand specialty care and use technology to reduce wait times demonstrate Advocate's dedication to improving access to care. The 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 Covenant M.B. Church, we believe in the power of community. Advocate's project honors our strengths and addresses critical health disparities. We are eager to collaborate to enhance the health and wellness of our congregation and the South Side.

With appreciation and optimism,



Rev. Stephen Thurston II  
Pastor  
New Covenant M.B. Church