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ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**EMANUEL "CHRIS" WELCH**  
SPEAKER

January 24, 2025

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

To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members,

As Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, I have seen firsthand the devastating impact of hospital closures on communities. Five years ago, in my own district, we experienced the losing critical healthcare resources, leaving residents with fewer options and greater challenges in accessing care. I am thrilled to see Advocate Health Care's proposed replacement hospital for Advocate Trinity, and have it be resoundingly supported by South Side elected officials. This is one of the largest, private, community focused health care investments ever made in Black and Brown communities in the nation.

At a time when many healthcare providers are leaving underserved areas, Advocate Health is doubling down on its commitment to the South Side with a historic \$1 billion investment. This \$300 million replacement hospital will not only provide state-of-the-art medical services but also address the root causes of health disparities by focusing on social determinants of health such as housing, food security, and community safety.

Advocate's leadership in building a healthier and more resilient South Side is a model for how we can strengthen healthcare infrastructure across Illinois.

I commend Advocate Health for their unwavering commitment to the South Side and urge the approval of this critical initiative. And, I urge your "yes" vote on the approval of this application. Together, we can ensure that every community has the resources needed to thrive.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Emanuel P. Welch", is positioned above the typed name.

Emanuel "Chris" Welch  
State Representative, 7<sup>th</sup> District  
Speaker of the Illinois House