

January 14, 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 Lead Hospitalist for Advocate Medical Group who has served the South Side Community for over 23 years and current Medical Staff President at Advocate Trinity Hospital, I am writing to express my strong support for Advocate Trinity Hospital's proposed new replacement hospital on the South Side of Chicago. This project is crucial for addressing the significant healthcare disparities faced by our community.

Local businesses are vital to the economic recovery and growth of the South Side. Small businesses in Chicago's inner-city neighborhoods provide nearly 70% of jobs, compared to 58% of jobs in the city overall. The construction and operation of the new Advocate Trinity replacement hospital will further stimulate economic growth. It is projected to create hundreds of construction jobs and, once operational, will provide numerous healthcare and administrative positions. This influx of jobs will contribute to reducing the unemployment rate on the South Side, which has historically been higher than the city average. The new hospital will not only provide essential healthcare services but also act as a catalyst for broader economic revitalization on the South Side.

I am committed to supporting this new replacement hospital to provide comprehensive and coordinated care to our South Side residents.

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

We look forward to the positive changes this new hospital will bring to our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Pamela Francia S. Cruz

Pamela Francia S. Cruz MD, SFHM

President Medical Staff-Advocate Trinity Hospital

Lead Hospitalist- Advocate Medical Group, Advocate Trinity Hospital