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January 24, 2025

Ms. Debra Savage, Chairwoman

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Chairwoman Savage,

As the Alderman of the 7th Ward, I write to express my strong support for Advocate Health Care's transformative hospital project submitted to you. This hospital will be a monumental and historic project that will reshape our community and create a future rooted in health equity and opportunity.

For decades, the South Side has faced systemic challenges—underfunded schools, limited economic opportunities, environmental hazards, and a lack of accessible healthcare. The vacant U.S. Steel South Works site, which has stood empty for 30 years, has been a painful reminder of this disinvestment. Advocate's decision to build a state-of-the-art hospital on this site is not just the construction of a building, it's the beginning of a new chapter for our community. The new hospital will be a catalyst for revitalization, a beacon of health equity, and an environmental milestone with its carbon-neutral design.

Advocate's larger investment is holistic, addressing the long-standing health disparities faced by our residents. And their plan includes multiple neighborhood care sites, expanded outpatient services, increased access to preventative care, and a focus on managing chronic illnesses. This approach will not only improve access to health care but also create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and lay the groundwork for continued investment in our community.

While others are leaving or not paying attention to our community, Advocate is both staying and doubling down. And just as important, these efforts are not just Advocate Health doing something to our community, but instead, the result of listening to our community.

I urge you to approve this project and take part in this historic step toward equity and opportunity for all residents of the South Side.

Sincerely,

Gregory Mitchell  
Alderman, 7th Ward