

February 2, 2026

Dear Ms. Debra Savage, Chairwoman of the Illinois Health Facilities Board,

I am writing to express my strong and deeply personal support for Advocate Lutheran General Hospital's proposed Comprehensive Cancer Center expansion. I do so not only as a practicing hematologist/oncologist, but as a physician who walks alongside patients and families during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives.

Every day in clinic, I care for individuals facing cancer while also juggling exhaustion, uncertainty, financial stress, transportation challenges, and the physical burden of treatment. Many of my patients spend hours at the hospital for a single visit—moving from lab, to clinic, to infusion—often while immunocompromised or clinically fragile. When care is fragmented or space is insufficient, those burdens are magnified. Delays, long waits, and physical transfers between buildings are not abstract inconveniences; they directly affect patients' safety, dignity, and experience of care.

The proposed Comprehensive Cancer Center directly addresses these realities. By bringing hematology/oncology clinics, infusion services, transplant and cellular therapy, apheresis, pharmacy, laboratory, and survivorship care together into a single, thoughtfully designed space, this project reflects what oncology care should look like today: coordinated, compassionate, and centered around the needs of patients rather than the limitations of facilities.

As oncology has evolved, so too have the demands placed on outpatient cancer centers. Treatments are longer, more complex, and often delivered over months or years. Immunotherapy and cellular therapy have transformed outcomes but require specialized infrastructure, dedicated pharmacy support, rigorous infection control, and significant time in infusion chairs. In my experience, current capacity constraints make it increasingly difficult to deliver this care as safely, efficiently, and humanely as our patients deserve. The proposed expansion—particularly the increase in clinic rooms and infusion bays—would meaningfully improve access to timely care and allow clinicians to focus on medicine rather than logistics.

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital's role in this region is especially important. It is the only center in the northwest suburbs offering advanced transplant and CAR-T cellular therapies—services that are lifesaving, highly specialized, and not easily accessed elsewhere. For many patients, traveling long distances during intensive treatment is not feasible. Keeping this level of care close to home allows patients to remain connected to their families, support systems, and community while undergoing extraordinarily demanding therapies.

I am also encouraged by the emphasis this project places on survivorship and supportive services. Cancer does not end when treatment stops. Long-term follow-up, education, rehabilitation, nutrition, psychosocial support, and survivorship care are essential to helping patients reclaim their lives after diagnosis. Dedicating appropriate space for these services signals a true commitment to whole-person cancer care.

The needs described in this application are not theoretical. They are reflected daily in clinic backlogs, infusion schedules pushed to their limits, and patients who graciously wait longer than they should. The service area continues to age, and cancer incidence will follow. Failing to invest now would inevitably result in delayed care, patient out-migration, and diminished access—particularly for older adults and those with fewer resources.

From the perspective of someone who cares deeply about both clinical excellence and patient dignity, I believe this Comprehensive Cancer Center expansion is not optional—it is necessary. It represents a responsible, compassionate, and forward-looking investment in the health of this community.

For these reasons, I offer my strongest support for Advocate Lutheran General Hospital's Certificate of Need application and respectfully urge the Board to approve this project.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



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