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TO: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

AFSCME Council 31 represents over 90,000 active and retired members in the state of Illinois, including thousands living in the Chicago metropolitan area. Our union strongly supports the skilled maintenance workers at Advocate South Suburban Hospital and Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital who have voted to join IUOE Local 399.

These workers maintain the ventilation systems, infection control infrastructure, and backup power that patients depend on. Over a year ago, they exercised their right to form a union. However, instead of bargaining in good faith, Advocate retaliated against them, committing multiple violations of federal labor law.

This Board evaluates whether a project will support safe, effective care. Right now, Advocate is losing experienced engineers to low wages and poor working conditions. Workers have reported air pressurization failures, moisture problems, and deferred repairs – concerns they raised internally and that were ignored.

You can't build patient safety on a foundation of worker mistreatment. Fair treatment for workers is inseparable from quality treatment for patients.

Before approving this expansion, we urge the Board to require Advocate to stabilize its workforce, bargain with the union in good faith, and look after its existing facilities.

AFSCME Council 31 stands with Local 399. We urge you to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Roberta Lynch
Executive Director
AFSCME Council 31

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American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 31

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