

September 4, 2012

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Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
2nd Floor
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members:

I wrote to the Oak Lawn Trustees regarding this matter and I know that the next step is approval from all of you. I am writing with regards to the upcoming vote on the 2nd tower of expansion for Advocate Christ Medical Center in order to enlarge its Emergency Room capacity. I am earnestly asking that you vote **YES**. Words cannot express how exceedingly important it is; not only to me, but to thousands of people in the suburbs of Chicago that Christ Hospital be allowed to expand its Emergency Room so that it can help so many more people and reduce the number of times it has to go on bypass. Several communities around Chicago and including Chicago will benefit from this expansion: Burbank, Bedford Park, Bridgeview, Oak Lawn, Justice, Summit, Nottingham, Evergreen Park, Beverly, just to name a few.

Advocate Christ Medical Center has saved the lives of my loved ones on more than one occasion. However, on March 26, 2011, it was the most life threatening of occasions. If (God forbid) Christ has been on bypass on that horrific day, my mother would surely have died.

She contracted the deadly Klebsiella Pnumoneae Bacterima infection from another hospital and needed life-support in order to survive. (If you Google the infection, you'll see that it has a high mortality rate even when life support measures are taken.) Upon arrival at Christ, she was immediately placed on a Ventilator, given IVs, a Central Line was inserted, as was a Catheter – **all within minutes** – and thus began the fight of her life *FOR* her life. Had the paramedics been forced to go on to the next hospital, she never would have survived. It is by the Grace of God and many thanks to the exceptionally skilled Emergency Room staff, as well as the fabulous medical team in Christ's MICCU (Medical Intensive Cardiac Care Unit) along with her long-time cardiologist at Christ that my beloved mother is alive today and doing well.

That is why I am asking, or rather *pleading* that you vote **YES** and *approve* the expansion with the building of the second tower. It is so vital to all of the neighboring communities: Burbank, Bridgeview, Bedford Park, Justice, Summit, Nottingham, Evergreen Park, Beverly, Chicago, as well as Oak Lawn that Advocate Christ Medical Center be allowed to expand its Emergency Room and continue its path of excellence in order to help so many more people. I am hoping with all my heart that the Oak Lawn Trustees do their part and vote YES. I am aware that once they give their vote of approval, the proposal is then forwarded on to all of you for approval; and if they do, I sincerely hope in my heart of hearts that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board will do the same and vote YES. When you say YES to the expansion, you also say YES to saving more lives!

PLEASE VOTE "YES"!!!

Sincerely,


Michele Mategrano