



# SEIU Healthcare<sup>®</sup>

## United for Quality Care

November 20, 2012

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Secretary-Treasurer

Ms. Courtney Avery Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities Services and Review Board  
525 West Jefferson  
Springfield, IL 62761  
Re: Project #12-079

Dear Ms. Avery,

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I am writing to express SEIU Healthcare Illinois/Indiana's support for Holy Cross Hospital's application to join Sinai Health System.

SEIU Healthcare Illinois/Indiana is a healthcare workers union comprised of 91,000 workers including 500 workers at Sinai Health System affiliates Mount Sinai Hospital and Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital. The union is thoroughly committed to protecting the healthcare safety-net and improving and expanding access to quality healthcare in the communities where our members work and live. Holy Cross Hospital and Sinai Health System are essential safety-net providers serving communities on Chicago's West and Southwest sides. SEIU Healthcare Illinois/Indiana is hopeful that the proposed affiliation will strengthen both providers and ensure that West and Southwest side communities continue to have access to quality care.

Holy Cross Hospital and Sinai Health System are not only essential healthcare providers but important employers in the communities they serve. Currently workers at Mt. Sinai Hospital and Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital are represented by SEIU Healthcare Illinois/Indiana. Workers at Holy Cross do not have union representation and those workers have consistently earned less than the median hourly wages for hospital workers in metropolitan Chicago.

Employment and income are key social determinants of health. SEIU Healthcare Illinois/Indiana asserts that Sinai Health System can improve community health by providing good working standards and maintaining or expanding employment at proposed affiliate Holy Cross. As the representative of Mt. Sinai and Schwab workers, the union can and should be an able partner in this process.

SEIU Healthcare Illinois/Indiana believes that joining Holy Cross Hospital to Sinai Health System will sustain and potentially improve access to quality healthcare on Chicago's West and Southwest sides. Sinai can further improve community health by working with the union to extend good wages and working standards to Holy Cross workers, and sustaining system-wide fair standards for all workers in a newly expanded Sinai Health System.

Sincerely,

Keith Kelleher  
President



# AMBULATORY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK OF COOK COUNTY

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November 20, 2012

Mrs. Courtney Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson  
Springfield, IL 62761

### **Re: Project #12079/Holy Cross Hospital**

Dear Ms. Avery:

On behalf of the Cook County Health & Hospitals System, I would like to express our support for the proposal to have Holy Cross Hospital join the Sinai Health System.

The Cook County Health & Hospitals System is the largest public provider of health care for low income individuals in Cook County. However, we cannot provide all of the care that is needed. We recognize the importance of safety net hospitals and health care providers as critical parts of the network of care for the communities that we also serve. We believe that it is vital that we have a strong private system of health care for low income patients that can partner with the services provided by Cook County. We are very familiar with the critical services provided at both Holy Cross Hospital and Sinai Health System and we recognize both as important health care providers on the Southwest Side of Chicago. We believe that this proposed merger will enable Holy Cross to continue to provide care in a very underserved part of the city of Chicago. We have worked closely with Sinai Health System for several years and we look forward to continuing to partner with both Sinai and Holy Cross.

We urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve Holy Cross becoming a member of Sinai Health System. Please contact me if you require additional information, or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Randall L. Mark  
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs & Policy

cc: Ram Raju, MD, MBA, FACS, FACHE

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