

14-031

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CHRISTIAN L. MITCHELL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
26TH HOUSE DISTRICT

RECEIVED

JUL 23 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

July 2, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to support the proposal of the University of Chicago Medical Center (UCMC) to expand and relocate its Maternity Center to the third floor of Comer Children's Hospital.

The Maternity Center would consist of nine labor/deliver/recovery rooms (LDRs), five triage rooms, two operating rooms and five ante partum rooms.

The project would enable UCMC to provide better care for its complex obstetric population and alleviate critical capacity constraints. UCMC would also become one of the few hospitals to provide state-of-the-art care for both high risk moms and babies in the same building, with the LDRs, high-risk ante partum services and Level II and III neonatal intensive care units all located within Comer.

Maternity care is currently provided in Mitchell Hospital, which was built in 1983. While Mitchell is still sufficient for high quality care, the preferences and needs of patients and their families have changed. From a patient's perspective, the new LDRs would be large enough to comfortably share the birth experience with family members. There will be capacity for numerous pieces of equipment and a variety of providers who work at the bedside in a teaching hospital. The current floor plan does not lend itself to being renovated for this purpose or provide enough square footage to comfortably accommodate patient needs.

UCMC is one of ten perinatal centers in the State of Illinois. It is a referral center for women with high risk pregnancies. The new Maternity Center will ensure that UCMC continues to provide the most advanced and effective care for mothers and newborns.

Sincerely,

Christian Mitchell
State Representative, 26th District