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To Whom It May Concern:

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

We are writing regarding Project 16-008 of the University of Chicago Medical Center. On behalf of the Trauma Care Coalition we are writing to express our support for the University of Chicago Medical Center's proposal to develop a Level 1 Adult Trauma Center on their campus.

We applaud the University of Chicago Medical Center for taking responsibility as a member of the broader south side community. A Level I Adult Trauma Center at the University of Chicago will provide the best possible outcome for addressing the current lack of south side trauma care.

Trauma patients on the south side of Chicago are currently taken to Advocate Christ Hospital, to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, or to Stroger Cook County Hospital. South side patients face longer ambulance run times than other residents in the city, often 30-40 minutes, two to three times the city standard. Meanwhile north side residents rarely travel over 5-10 minutes to a trauma center.<sup>[1]</sup> In a study published in June 2013 in the American Journal of Public Health Dr. Marie Crandall<sup>[2]</sup> analyzed a decade of gunshot wound data in Chicago, and found that people who travel more than 5 miles to a trauma center are 23% more likely to die than those who do not.

The proposal to build a trauma center also signals a significant shift in the University's approach to responding to the needs of its predominantly Black south side neighbors. We are calling on President Robert Zimmer and Dean Kenneth Polonsky to go further and implement and operate this proposed trauma center with transparency and accountability to the surrounding community. We are encouraged that the University of Chicago has stated an intention to engage the community around the services and other programming in the trauma center. We will hold the University accountable to all of their commitments until they are secured. We plan to stay resolute in our demands until we can see that this proposed trauma center will operate in a long-term, sustainable capacity.

Sincerely,

The Trauma Care Coalition:

Fearless Leading by the Youth, Southside Together Organizing for Power, Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization, Interfaith Leadership Council, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, National Nurses United, and Students for Health Equity.

[1] <http://www.wbez.org/story/would-adding-new-trauma-center-save-lives-south-side-93103>

[2] <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2013.301223>.