Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital of Chicago®

February 8, 2017

BY E-MAIL & OVERNIGHT MAIL
Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
Courtney.avery@illinois.gov

RECEIVED
FEB 09 2017
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Request for Expedited Review
Bed Expansion Project - Project #16-050
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am asking you to evaluate whether the above-referenced Lurie Children's permit application seeking to add 44 ICU and 4 NICU beds can be moved for consideration by the Health Facilities and Services Review Board from the May 2 meeting to its March 14 meeting.

Review in March instead of May would have several benefits to Lurie Children's. If the project were to receive approval in March, it would allow Illinois Department of Public Health plan review to occur in the April/May timeframe and the start of construction would be accelerated. Based on the timeline for the project, this would also allow most of the construction-related disruption on the 21st floor to be completed before the start of the flu season in December.

The highest months of utilization of ICU/NICU and other inpatient services are typically in the December through March timeframe. As reported in the permit application, high utilization of ICU and NICU beds in the past two years has resulted in denials of requests for patient transports to Lurie Children's. Last year, 75% of the 112 requested transports to Lurie Children's were denied due to lack of availability of these critical care beds, with over half of the denials in the December through March period. In January, 2017 alone, we have had to turn away over 20 patients. An early start to the project would advance our ability to accommodate patients needing intensive care services during these very busy months in 2018.

We understand that State workloads may prohibit being able to accommodate this request. If you can raise this for consideration, it would be appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me at 312-227-7468, or Ralph Weber, our consultant, at 847-791-0830.

Sincerely,

Nanette Bufalino

Nanette Bufalino
Associate General Counsel

cc: Ralph Weber, CON consultant