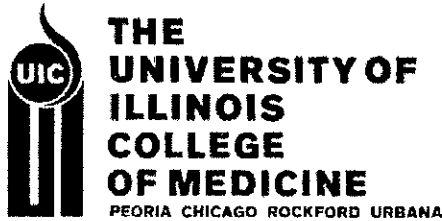


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Office of the Regional Dean
One Illini Drive
Box 1649
Peoria, Illinois 61656-1649

Sara Rusch, MD, MACP
Regional Dean

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 15, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am the Regional Dean for the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria. The College of Medicine educates 244 medical students and over 300 residents and fellows each year. Much of our work is done with OSF Healthcare, our major academic partner. It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of OSF HealthCare and its re-development of the long-vacant Cub Foods store on Knoxville Avenue. The building has been vacant for over eight years, which has had a negative impact on the East Bluff neighborhood.

OSF HealthCare is planning to relocate Heartland Community Health Clinic, University Of Illinois College Of Medicine pediatric clinics, and other multi-specialty clinics to the former Cub Foods location. Of particular note, the Heartland Community Health Clinic provides the ambulatory training site for the University's residencies in Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Medicine-Pediatrics and OB-Gynecology. This clinic is an important source of medical care for the underserved patients in our area as well as a critical training site for the University.

We believe that this new location will greatly improve access to health care services for the people who live in this area. It is more accessible and visible for patients. The newly remodeled building will reinvigorate this area of our community, providing a safe and attractive environment that attracts patients, staff and practitioners. It will enhance the education of future physicians and encourage them to remain to serve the needs of the patients in Downstate Illinois. I look forward to this needed enhancement and its impact on the health of our patients and the economic environment of our community.

Sincerely,

Sara L. Rusch, M.D., MACP
Regional Dean
University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria

cc: Mark Hohulin, Senior Vice President Healthcare Analytics
OSF HealthCare
800 NE Glen Oak Avenue
Peoria, IL 61603