January 30, 2020

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
c/o Courtney Avery, Administrator
525 W Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Letter of Support for Comprehensive Cancer Center and Proton Therapy

As the spouse of a cancer survivor who received Proton Therapy treatment, I am writing this letter to express my unwavering support of the plans by OSF HealthCare to bring a Comprehensive Cancer Care Center with Proton Therapy to Peoria.

Two years ago, my husband Josh was diagnosed with Stage 4 Tongue Cancer and the prognosis was very grim he had received "conventional" Photon Radiation and Chemotherapy. Our only hope for a positive outcome would be for Josh to receive Proton Therapy. Not having a Proton Therapy machine in the area forced us to make the decision to leave our home and family to travel to the Mayo Clinic for his treatment plan that spanned 3 + months. Plus, a five-year commitment of quarterly return visits for post treatment checkups.

This journey is one that no one wants to take, but when they must travel far from home to receive the best care possible, it's an even longer and harder journey. For my husband's cancer and many others battling this disease, the Proton Therapy holds the key to better outcomes both in the short and long term.

Josh was lucky enough to receive Proton Therapy I am happy to report that he is cancer free with minimal side effects and has been able to return to be a fully functioning, contributing member of society. I realize that not everyone is lucky enough to have Proton Therapy be a key component in their care, but before us we have an opportunity to change that for our region.

I am so proud that OSF HealthCare has made the bold move towards their quest to bring a Comprehensive Cancer Care Center utilizing revolutionary Proton Therapy to our region. This truly allows them to live their mission and to serve the population with the greatest care and love with the best medical technology possible. Providing access locally to the thousands of patients that could use it in our region brings joy beyond words. Please do your part and approve this project to help make this dream a reality for the many, many, patients and their caregivers that need it.

Sincerely,

Danette Swank

Danette Swank
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Peoria, IL 61614