



UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

May 2, 2012

Governor Patrick Quinn  
207 Statehouse  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn:


I am writing to express the support of the University of Chicago Medical Center (UCMC) for the Section 1115 Waiver proposal from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (IDHFS) that would permit the Cook County Health & Hospitals System (CCHHS) to enroll Medicaid "new eligibles" under the Affordable Care Act beginning in July, 2012.

As for decades past, the public hospital system operated by Cook County stands as the indispensable foundation for safety net healthcare services to vulnerable populations in the Chicago metropolitan region. While private, nonprofit hospitals contribute their fair share, CCHHS remains by far the largest provider of uncompensated care in the State of Illinois.

This Section 1115 waiver request from IDHFS and CCHHS would allow Illinois to significantly "jump start" Medicaid enrollment in anticipation of the Medicaid expansion authorized under the Affordable Care Act in 2014. More important, under the waiver CCHHS will be able to implement patient centered care coordination for its existing 100,000 patients who will qualify based upon their poverty status. Implementation of care coordination by CCHHS under the waiver furthers the aims of State of Illinois Medicaid Reform endorsed by you and the General Assembly through HB5420 last year. It similarly helps advance the goals of the Affordable Care Act.

I thank you for your efforts to secure federal approval of the CCHHS waiver application. CCHHS is the linchpin of the regional safety net, and its ability to deliver quality care to tens of thousands of the most vulnerable amongst us is critical to all, like UCMC, who attempt to enhance the health of our communities.

Sincerely,

  
Kenneth S. Polonsky, MD

cc: Julie Hamos, Director, DHFS  
The Honorable Ioni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board President  
Dr. Ram Raju, CEO, CCHHS  
Kenneth Munson, Regional Director, U.S. DHHS

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CITIZENS ASSISTANCE

