

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2024

Henry Ciolino, PhD
Director, Office of Cancer Centers
National Cancer Institute
9609 Medical Center Drive
Room 2w212, MSC 9708
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Dr. Ciolino:

We write in support of the application from the University of Illinois Cancer Center located in Chicago, Illinois, to obtain National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation. Obtaining NCI designation is a key initiative for Illinois, both to help improve the health of residents as well as to boost research and economic development.

Illinois has one of the nation's highest rates of cancer incidence and mortality, with significant disparities across geography and demographics. The University of Illinois Cancer Center has spent more than 30 years working to reduce and eliminate these cancer health disparities—including through its world-class hospital, recruiting some of the field's brightest researchers, and providing equitable patient care to some of the most vulnerable populations in Illinois.

With NCI designation, the University of Illinois Cancer Center would be even better positioned to develop novel cancer treatments; identify causes of disparities; test new treatments; and advance strategies to address the structural, social, and behavioral drivers of cancer disparities in communities, federally qualified health centers, and safety-net settings. As a public state university, the University of Illinois Cancer Center would fill an important niche in NCI's current portfolio of designated centers.

NCI designation will help ensure Illinois patients can access advanced care and clinical trials close to home. It also will help provide high-quality cancer care to all citizens, regardless of ability to pay.

We believe in the innovative work that researchers at the University of Illinois Chicago and University of Illinois Cancer Center are doing to reduce the cancer burden in Illinois and urge you to give full and fair consideration to the University of Illinois Cancer Center for National Cancer Institute designation.

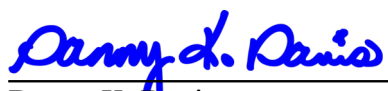
Sincerely,



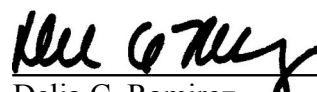
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



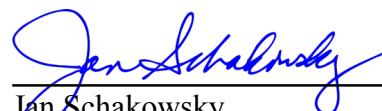
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



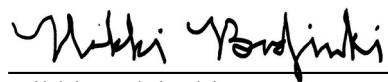
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



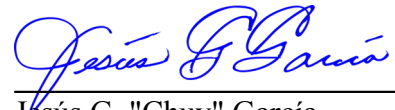
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress




Bill Foster
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



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