



May 24, 2011

The Honorable Kwame Raoul
Chair, Senate Redistricting Committee
122 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable Barbara Flynn Currie, Majority Leader
Chair, House Redistricting Committee
300 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Majority Leader Currie and Senator Raoul:

As your committee continues the critically important job of drawing new legislative district boundaries, I am hopeful that constituent input can be a valued part of the decision-making process. In that regard, I want to bring a particular concern about the proposed boundaries shown in the most recent drafts for the city of Springfield.

In 2003, the Illinois General Assembly created a medical district within the city of Springfield that was designed to help unite the considerable clinical and health professions education programs into an economic engine for job creation and job training opportunities for the central region of the state (PA92-0870). Critical to the district's formulation were geographic boundaries that encompassed the city's two major hospitals and the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. The creation of the district has helped foster cooperative activity among these entities and many other groups that have sought to leverage the clinical resources of the city for private, state, and federal funding opportunities.

The proposed boundaries for new legislative districts within the city split the Mid-Illinois Medical District into two different House districts. I believe that there would be significant advantage to be gained from having the entire medical district represented by a single House member. Modest changes to the proposed map could accomplish this with relative ease and without significant disruption to the process. By making such changes, coordinated planning around health care services for the central region in the state would be enhanced, development activities would be streamlined, and economic activity would be strengthened. Having a single voice in both the House and Senate acting on behalf of this important constituency will better serve the city of Springfield, the citizens of central Illinois, and the state as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this. I appreciate the opportunity to provide local input to help foster the best possible outcome.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Curtis".

Edgar J. Curtis
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: J. Kevin Dorsey, MD, PhD
Dean and Provost
SIU School of Medicine
Robert P. Ritz
President and CEO
St. John's Hospital

Additional Submissions
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