



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO
MEDICINE &
BIOLOGICAL
SCIENCES
AT THE FOREFRONT OF MEDICINE

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November 28, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander,

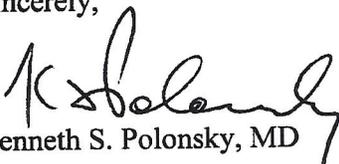
On behalf of the University of Chicago Medical Center, I would like to convey our support for the 21st Century Cures Act (the "Act").

The Act would provide transitional relief to a number of hospitals in Illinois and across the country that were in mid-build of off-campus outpatient departments when the 2015 Bipartisan Budget Act was enacted. By moving the grandfather date for off-campus hospital outpatient departments from November 2, 2015 to December 31, 2016, or 60 days after enactment, whichever is later, the Act will re-establish reimbursement rates for our off-campus facility in Orland Park that was under construction in October 2015. The Budget Act provision seriously undermined the financial and operational assumptions for our new facility, and the provision in the proposed Act represents fair treatment for facilities such as ours that had prior to enactment made significant financial commitments well before they were notified that the rules would be changed.

The Act also includes important funding for addressing the opioid crisis and support for biomedical research, including the cancer moonshot, the BRAIN Initiative, and the Precision Medicine Initiative. In addition, the Act includes funding to improve mental health care, including suicide prevention on college campuses and screening pregnant women for depression.

Your support of the 21st Century Cures Act would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Kenneth S. Polonsky, MD