

Erica E. Marsh MD MSCI

Chairman Suffredin and Commissioners:

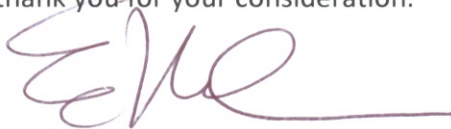
Thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee. The motivation behind my interest in serving on the Cook County Health and Hospitals System (CCHHS) Board of Directors is simple and transparent: I believe that access to quality health care is a right, not a privilege, and that it should not be contingent upon one's ability to pay.

I have lived in Chicago for nine years and have been a Reproductive Endocrinologist and Infertility specialist (REI) on staff at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and an Assistant Professor at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University for the last six years. Prior to moving to Chicago in 2005, I lived in Cambridge/Boston for sixteen years where I received my college and medical education and completed my residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology. I have always wanted to be a physician – not just to have a career based in the health care industry, but to have a career that would allow me to touch lives, to heal where I could, and to provide comfort where I couldn't.

In addition to patient care, research and education play a substantial part of my career. I do research and am published in the fields of **health disparities, health literacy, and women's health issues**. I believe my expertise in these areas could be brought to bear and benefit the CCHHS and its patients. In addition to my formal professional responsibilities, I founded the Northwestern Medicine Scholars Program, which is a partnership between Westinghouse College Prep and Northwestern Medicine. This partnership was created to help high school students to aspire to careers as physicians and medical researchers. We provide the access, mentorship, ACT Prep and the inspiration. The students have to provide the perspiration. I have also secured grant funding for and served as a volunteer for Community Health, the free health care clinic provider. I am also on the board of the American Medical Association Foundation.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has transformed the challenge of public hospitals across the nation. While the ACA has increased the resources that these institutions are receiving, it has also issued an implicit challenge – many of our patients have choices now that they did not have before - we now have to compete. How do we continue to be the people's choice in this new environment? How do we partner with our community hospitals and academic medical centers to compliment what we offer our patients? I believe that we do this by continuing to prioritize the ideals that have been set forth by the CCHHS historically. We also prioritize the patient experience by promoting prevention, quality, safety initiatives and by promoting respect. I look forward to working with you, the CCHHS Board, and the Cook County community as we strive to meet the challenges and leverage the opportunities that we face in health care.

I thank you for your consideration.



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