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November 1, 2018

Dr. B.J. Walker
Director
Department of Children and Family Services
100 W. Randolph St
Chicago IL 60601

Dear Director Walker,

We are writing with serious concern about an article regarding Aurora Chicago Lakeshore Hospital that appeared in ProPublica on October 31, 2018. The article raises issues about violations and situations which involved harm to youth, including some youth under the care of DCFS.

The article raises serious concerns about both the appropriateness of care being delivered by Chicago Lakeshore Hospital and about the thoroughness of oversight by the Department of Children and Family Services.

We agree with Inspector General Meryl Paniak that an independent reviewer be appointed to evaluate not only the cases at Chicago Lakeshore and the response by DCFS, but also to conduct a thorough review of quality of care and adherence to all relevant laws, policies, and procedures. The reviewer should develop recommendations on how to proceed to guarantee the safety and best possible outcomes for youth who are patients at Chicago Lakeshore or those who might be admitted in the future, a remediation program and timeline, or whatever actions he or she deem to be in the best interests of the youth. We urge you to move swiftly on this matter.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of Sara Feigenholtz in cursive.

Sara Feigenholtz
Representative, 12th District

Handwritten signature of Gregory S. Harris in cursive.

Gregory S Harris
Representative, 13th District

Handwritten signature of Heather Steans in cursive.

Heather Steans
Senator, 7th District