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MAY 20 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
 SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

May 16, 2011

11-017

Ms. Courtney Avery  
 Administrator  
 Illinois Health Facilities and  
 Services Review Board  
 525 W. Jefferson  
 Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

On behalf of Southwestern Illinois College – particularly our Health Sciences faculty and literally thousands of healthcare-field graduates who gained practical experience with a valued community partner – please consider this letter to be our most enthusiastic endorsement of the Memorial Hospital-East expansion project in Shiloh.

Beyond broadened regional healthcare-service benefits, which are best articulated by Memorial, our thumbs-up perspective is based on the following:

- Healthcare-field enrollments are booming nationwide, including at Southwestern Illinois College; a new community hospital will afford us even greater opportunities to serve that regional need.
- Like most community college graduates, a vast majority of our Health Sciences program graduates stay in our communities to serve, to raise families, and to help our regional economy.
- For the past few years, our licensure pass-rate for several Health Sciences programs has been 100 percent, and far above the national success rate in every other discipline. This success is directly attributable to practical experience our students gain with our 120-plus healthcare facility partners, including more than 50 years with Memorial.

Summarizing, the Memorial-proposed Shiloh facility would meet a regional need for those services; it would Help Students Learn, our core mission at Southwestern Illinois College; and it would provide additional training and employment opportunities for healthcare-field graduates who want to work, live and raise families here.

Thanks for your kind consideration of our opinion, and please let us know if we can provide further testimony.

Sincerely,

*Georgia Costello, Ph.D.*  
 Georgia Costello, Ph.D.  
 President  
 Southwestern Illinois College

*Julie Muertz*  
 Julie Muertz  
 Dean, Health Sciences  
 Southwestern Illinois College

*Carol Eckert*  
 Carol Eckert, RN, TNS  
 Director, Nursing Education  
 Southwestern Illinois College

cc: Mr. Mark Turner, President and CEO, Memorial Hospital