

11-105

**Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** pamella gronemeyer [drgronemeyer@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 7:23 PM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Subject:** Letter of support for St.Joseph's Hospital, Higland,IL  
**Attachments:** sjhletter.doc

**RECEIVED**

FEB 14 2012

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

My letter of support for the new hospital is attached.  
Thank you for your time.  
Sincerely,  
Pamella Gronemeyer, M.D.

**PAMELLA S. GRONEMEYER, M.D.**

**1270 MERCANTILE DRIVE**

**HIGHLAND, IL 62249**

**6186518097/618973584**

Courtney Avery, Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

February 10, 2012

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am a physician and a woman small business owner of a freestanding pathology/cytology laboratory in Highland, IL. My business is named SEMC Pathology. Seven of my eight employees are women. I am also the laboratory director at St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland, IL I am writing to endorse the plan for a replacement hospital for St. Joseph's. Highland is a very safe, family oriented community that supports the current hospital. Highland has a growing population with a young median age. The patients and their families are responsible, concerned individuals who demand excellent quality healthcare. Our vision at St. Joseph's is to provide this care. The current facility has some severe limitations. The hospital is landlocked and cannot expand outward since it is situated in the middle of a residential neighborhood. Our parking space is very limited. The facility while well-maintained is old and requires updates to insure that all current infection prevention guidelines can be followed. For instance, all of the sinks are fitted with very old faucets that do not allow one to really get under the stream of water for best handwashing. The layout of the hospital is not conducive to serve both inpatients and outpatients. The people of Highland trust both the laboratory and radiology services and utilizes these services over neighboring reference laboratory draw stations and freestanding imaging centers. They know the value of having a hospital within ten minutes reach from all of Highland.

I provide health insurance to all of my employees. Many of them do not live in Highland. However, they use the hospital for their healthcare needs. My optometrist who lives in Highland credits the facility with saving his son's life. The youth had a severe asthmatic attack at home. His father took him to the emergency room at the hospital where the attack was halted. Since the severity of asthmatic attacks is on the rise and there are more frequent bad outcomes, this story has a happy ending because St, Joseph's hospital was nearby. This is only one of many similar stories that I could provide to you.

I therefore do hope that the board will approve our certificate of need. All of us who work at St. Joseph's Hospital know that we are there to provide the community with quality healthcare. We are committed to this vision and hope that the board decides to make our vision of a new, improved facility a reality.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the address or phone numbers above or by my email, [drgronemeyer@msn.com](mailto:drgronemeyer@msn.com).

Sincerely,

Pamella Gronemeyer, M.D.