

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Heather Troester/SIH [Heather.Troester@sih.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2013 3:24 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney; Constantino, Mike  
**Subject:** SIH Cancer Center, Project #13-005  
**Attachments:** SIH Cancer Center Letter of Support.doc

Ms. Avery,

Please find the attached letter of support for the Southern Illinois Healthcare Cancer Center for your review. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

**Heather Troester**  
*School Health Coordinator*  
Southern Illinois Healthcare  
Community Benefits Department  
1239 E. Main  
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March 6, 2013

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: SIH Cancer Center, Project #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery,

I'm writing this letter to express my support for the SIH Cancer Center building proposal in southern Illinois.

I have been privy to the unfortunate circumstances of traveling for cancer treatment through a once close friend of my family. She frequently traveled roughly two and a half hours one way for her treatments. She was not strong enough to drive herself, as many are not, and required a friend or family member to accompany her.

As cancer treatment is often not a onetime occurrence, patients must take numerous trips to even have a fighting chance at battling the cancer that lives within them. Not only are they battling a disease and its side effects but also the side effects of the necessary treatment. When our family friend learned that she may one day not have to travel so far to receive the care that sustained her, she was so very hopeful. Happiness is something she experienced as well; however it is hope sustains us when nothing else can.

Southern Illinois Healthcare has committed to lead the cancer fight for the people of this region. They've already shown their resolve by bringing more cancer specialists here and by building accredited programs, such as The Breast Center, where the goal is detection to diagnosis in 24 hours. Comprehensive medical treatment for cancer close to home makes huge differences in the lives of those suffering from this relentless disease. The Southern Illinois Cancer Center would bring hope home for thousands of residents in Southern Illinois. How much easier might this disease be to fight for those who are here if they did not have to travel so far?

Sadly our family friend will not be able to see or experience the Southern Illinois Cancer Center. She lost her battle with cancer this past fall. For her and for countless others we must make this hope a reality. Please show that you believe in hope by allowing us to provide this much needed resource to our area.

Respectfully,

Heather Troester