

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Brent Newell/SIH [Brent.Newell@sih.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2013 10:43 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney; Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Jennifer Badiu/SIH  
**Subject:** SIH Cancer Center  
**Attachments:** SIH Cancer Institute.docx



Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago - Physiatry Services  
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS HEALTHCARE

March 11, 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 wanted communicate my support and endorsement of Southern Illinois Healthcare's ambitious effort to build a comprehensive, freestanding cancer center to serve patients throughout the seven southernmost counties of rural southern Illinois. As you know, this area is underserved in many ways, particularly in regards to cancer care. This area has some of the highest cancer rates in the state.

With the building of a comprehensive cancer center in southern Illinois, patients battling cancer will not have to travel as far for outstanding treatment. The SIH Cancer Center will be able to provide this full continuum of care in one location. These vital services will include radiation therapy, chemotherapy, multidisciplinary teams for breast, lung, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and head and neck cancers. It will also include the ability to participate in clinical trials via its academic affiliation with the Simmons Cancer Institute at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Furthermore, rehabilitation care will be provided via an affiliation with the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

Many of the patients who will ultimately receive care at the SIH Cancer Center are among our state's most vulnerable---elderly, low-income, and uninsured. In fact, all seven of the counties in SIH's service area are federally designated as "Health Professional Shortage Area(s) for Primary Medical Care."

I wholeheartedly support SIH's mission, values, and commitment to bring this caliber of cancer care to southern Illinois. Thank you for your time and attention to this project.

Respectfully,

Brent M. Newell, MD  
Physiatrist  
RIC/SIH Rehabilitation Services  
3224 S. Park Ave.  
Herrin, IL 62948