



Building Better Tomorrows...Today
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MAR 13 2013

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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P O Box 365
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Phone (618) 997-5336
TDD (618) 993-8629
Fax (618) 993-2969

3111 Williamson County Parkway
Marion, IL 62959
Phone (618) 997-3647
Fax: (618) 969-9437

March 7, 2013

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

Re: SIH Cancer Center, Project #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery,

Please consider this letter my personal endorsement of Southern Illinois Healthcare's effort to build a comprehensive, freestanding cancer center to serve patients throughout a seven county region of rural southern Illinois. Thousands of these patients live in the most impoverished counties of Illinois, many of which have the additional misfortune of being among those with the highest cancer incidence rates in the state.

Cancer experts estimate that the average patient may experience up to 100 visits in the first year of treatment alone. Instead of enduring long, tedious and expensive travel outside of Illinois, weary patients, their family and friends will now benefit from the streamlined, team-based care the SIH Cancer Center can provide close to home.

For the first time in southern Illinois, the region would benefit from the full continuum of cancer care in a single locale. These vital services range from radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and a home for multidisciplinary teams for breast, lung, gastrointestinal, genitourinary and head and neck cancers to clinical trials, support, survivorship and rehabilitation. The SIH Cancer Institute's academic affiliation with the Simmons Cancer Institute at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield also brings other, much-needed resources to southern Illinois.

Additionally, many of the patients that will ultimately receive care at the SIH Cancer Center are among our state's most vulnerable--elderly, low-income and uninsured. A federal designation also cites each of the seven counties in SIH's service area as "Health Professional Shortage Area(s) for Primary Medical Care."

I enthusiastically 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,

John Markley, CEO

Cc: Woody Thorne, Vice President - Community Affairs/Southern Illinois Healthcare

March 1, 2013

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Ms. Courtney R. Avery

MAR 13 2013

Administrator

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SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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Springfield, IL 62761

Re: SIH Cancer Center, Project #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery,

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If you are from southern Illinois, facing cancer has often meant frequent trips to a major metropolitan area, usually outside of our state's borders. Not only do these patients battle the disease itself, they also cope with the costs and struggles associated with simply getting the care, which can include high fuel rates, time away from work, hotel stays and meals. The love and support they so desperately need could be two hours away. For some, the means to get the care are too great.

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.

Their American dream is living in southern Illinois. Your decision will allow this region's cancer patients to fight the disease where they find strength and hope—at home.

Respectfully,



March 1, 2013

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Respectfully,

Gene Leitz Casbeer

*Very recent breast cancer survivor &
satisfied local patient*

March 10, 2013

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Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: SIH Cancer Center, Project #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery,

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

I am a 5 1/2 year breast cancer survivor. I was fortunate to be part of the accredited SIH program of the Breast Center in Carbondale. My diagnosis, biopsy, lumpectomy, chemo and radiation therapy and oncologists' appointments were and are in Carbondale. That means so much to me as I have no long distance traveling with which to deal. I was able to continue working as a home health physical therapist and be at home through the more than six months of treatment after surgery.

Other cancer patients are not so fortunate. Frequent trips to St Louis or other large cities are required. The cost of travel is very hard on them.

Your decision will allow this region's cancer patients to fight the disease at home.

Sincerely,



March 1, 2013

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Respectfully,

Linda Clayton
17 yr. Survivor

March 1, 2013

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Respectfully,

Geraldine Bardle

March 1, 2013

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan D. [unclear]".

March 1, 2013

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Respectfully,

*Christine
Thomas*

March 1, 2013

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Respectfully,

Anna Vaughn
612 Skyline
Carbondale, IL 62901

March 1, 2013

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Respectfully,

Mrs Sarah L. Dwyer

March 1, 2013

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Respectfully,

Sharon K. Parker
805 E. Carter St.
Macon, IL 62959

March 11, 2013

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

RE: SIH Cancer Center Project # 13-005

Dear Ms. Avery:

This is to support the SIH Cancer Center building proposal in Southern Illinois.

Starting in the early 1990's, I was a participant in a national study for prostate cancer, located in the Urology Department at the St. Louis Washington University School of Medicine. I traveled several times from the Carbondale, IL area to St. Louis for tests and consultation. In 2000, the tests revealed that I had prostate cancer. Shortly thereafter, I underwent a radical prostatectomy performed by project staff (Dr. Figenshau) at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. The post-operation recovery required the extended use of a urinary catheter. During this period of several weeks, the catheter became clogged. A trip to the local emergency room resulted in a failure to unclog the catheter, and so I was sent back to Barnes Hospital Urology Department. They were successful, but I had to return twice more during the recovery period, and a final time to have the catheter removed.

All together, from the start of my participation in the study, I traveled at least nine times from Carbondale to St. Louis. It would have been much better if there had been top-notch care here in the local area. And top-notch medical care requires, in part, top-notch medical facilities. This is why I am writing to support the SIH building proposal.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this matter.

Respectfully,

James F. Henry

600 Pump House Road
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Phone: 618-559-7463

March 1, 2013

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Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Henley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Nancy Henley".

March 1, 2013

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Respectfully,

Carol Sue Foley

My brother Tom had Mesothelioma he needed stem cell replacement. We drove back & forth to St. Louis Mo. for 3 yrs. A cancer center here in So. Ill.

Thank you so much

March 1, 2013

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Respectfully,

Marsha C. James

5 YEAR BREAST CANCER SURVIVER!

RICHARD JAMES

1 YEAR PROSTATE SURVIVER!

March 1, 2013

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eugene Shepard-Horn". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Respectfully,".

Re: SIH Cancer Center, Project #13.005

March 10, 2013

Dear Ms. Query,

I want to express my support for the SIH Cancer Center building proposal in Southern Illinois.

When I was having treatments for breast cancer the miles I had to go daily with the high cost of gasoline was unbelievable. It put a tremendous burden on my husband and I because I was not working and still had 2 kids at home in college.

There are many others I have met through treatment experiencing the same difficulties of mileage. Traveling in the winter weather as much as 23 hours away. Possibly staying overnight because treatment is hard on them. As many as 4 doctors, 2 hospitals where testing is done and another facility where my insurance only covers ~~only~~ ^{my} ~~costs~~ blood work. That is 5 towns sometimes in 1 day! It would be great for one facility, in 1 town, in 1 trip!!

SIH has done a great job with the Doctors, surgeons, Radiologists, chemo specialist, treatment drug availability, equipment for MUGA tests, MRI, CT scans, CAT scans, Radiation, and all the precious, caring people who do those jobs, nurses, people to teach good nutrition, and even Donna Crow who is there before you go into surgery with a small pillow made and donated by ladies at a local church to help protect that

painful area of surgery. SIA has put together a great network of people. But I wish they were in the same facility. It would really help us cancer patients and make life at least a little less stressful.

Thank you for considering this project.
Thank you for making it reality for all of us in the future;

Sincerely,

Lee Smith

Breast Cancer Survivor 2010
and 2011 with SIA help