



305 W Jackson St, Suite 103  
Carbondale, IL 62902  
Phone: 618-351-4972  
Fax: 618-351-4973

**RECEIVED**

MAR 14 2013

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

13-005

March 12, 2013

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

Dear Review Board:

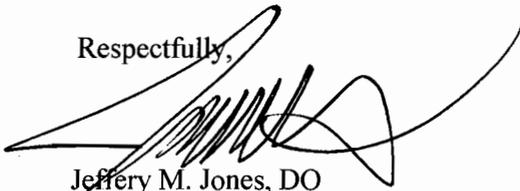
I am writing this letter in regards to the planned cancer center here in Southern Illinois. I have been a practicing physician in Southern Illinois for approximately five years now. I have watched the medical community grow significantly during this time. We now have many specialties that were not available in this area five years ago. The quality of the physicians, their relationships among them and their patients have made this area a wonderful place to practice medicine and receive medical care.

I believe the addition of a cancer center would greatly help our physicians coordinate patient care and give our patients an easily accessible location to receive the finest treatments available for fighting their disease. Many of our patients currently leave the state of Illinois for Missouri or Kentucky, as both states have comprehensive cancer care centers with well coordinated care. Many of these centers require a significant drive for these families for multiple treatments which can drain the family's financial resources. I feel this is not conducive to healing because we serve an elderly and low-income population. Many of our patients do not have the financial resources to travel far away to receive their medical care.

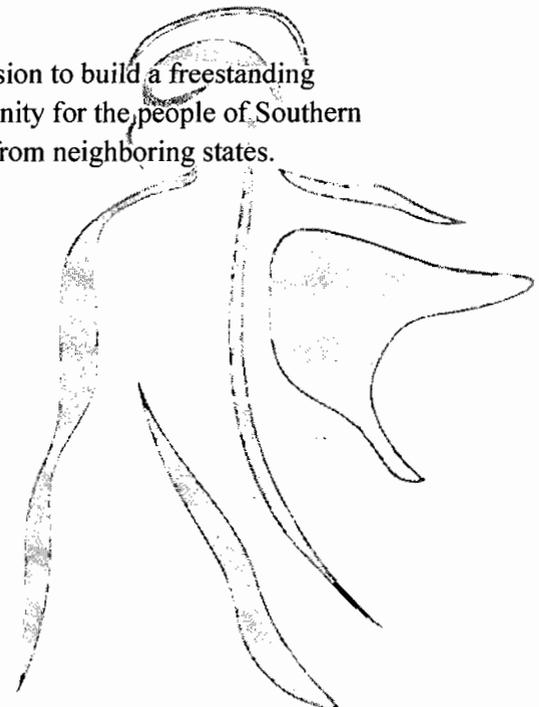
Our area is quite lucky in the fact that Southern Illinois Healthcare is willing to make the investment in developing a freestanding cancer center to help our physicians coordinate care for our patients in this area. This would provide superior care to our patients without having them go to another state to receive this type of care and treatment.

I do hope that you will consider Southern Illinois Healthcare's mission to build a freestanding cancer center here in Southern Illinois. This would be a wonderful opportunity for the people of Southern Illinois to have access to the same high quality care as they would receive from neighboring states.

Respectfully,



Jeffery M. Jones, DO  
Neurosurgeon



March 1, 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 am taking this opportunity to voice my enthusiastic 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 these counties have the additional misfortune of being among those with the highest cancer incidence rates in the state.

Instead of enduring long, tedious and expensive travel outside of Illinois, weary patients along with their family and friends will benefit from the streamlined, team-based care the SIH Cancer Center will now be able to provide under one roof. For the first time in our region, SIH would offer the full continuum of cancer care in a single locale. These vital services include radiation therapy, chemotherapy, a home for multidisciplinary teams for breast, lung, gastrointestinal, genitourinary and head and neck cancers, clinical trials, support, survivorship and rehabilitation care. The SIH Cancer Center also enjoys an academic affiliation with the Simmons Cancer Institute at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield. The breadth of this partnership brings additional, much-needed resources to southern Illinois.

Furthermore, 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,



Russ B. Bogle, M.D., Ph.D.

March 11, 2013

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
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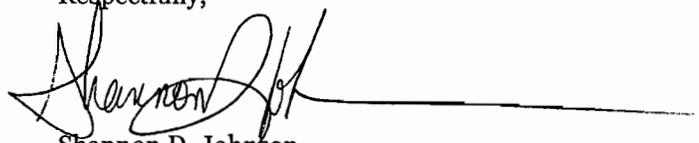
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Southern Illinois Healthcare has committed to lead the cancer fight for the people of this region. They've already shown their resolve by bringing more cancer specialists here and by building accredited programs, such as The Breast Center, where the 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,



Shannon D. Johnson  
Executive Director  
Williamson County Tourism Bureau



March 11, 2013

Ms. Courtney R. Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
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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 her 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 will make huge differences in the lives of those suffering from this relentless disease. It will also make a huge difference to those supporting those facing the 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,



Philip V. Thorne



M. Francelle Thorne

March 1, 2013

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shawn Mandrell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Respectfully,".

March 1, 2013

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

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Respectfully,

*Paula Clendenin*

*It has been six years  
since my Breast Cancer  
treatments. We really need  
this SIH Cancer Center.  
Thank you*

March 1, 2013

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. J. [unclear]", written over a horizontal line.

March 1, 2013

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Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

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Respectfully,

*Dandy Morgan*  
(My wife Has Been Cancer Free Since 2001.)

*I can remember the trips from Carbondale to St. Louis, Mo.,  
All types of weather extremes, hours of driving, having to take off  
from work. I stayed in St. Louis for 6 days while my wife had surgery.  
I think a cancer facility would be more than welcome here  
in Southern Illinois.*

March 1, 2013

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

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Springfield, IL 62761

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Respectfully,

*Kathy J Morgan*  
(Breast Cancer Survivor Since 2001)

March 1, 2013

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Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Barber Clark". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

March 10, 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,

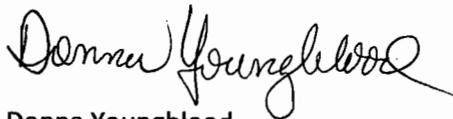
I am writing this letter in support of the SIH Cancer Center building proposal for southern Illinois.

As a cancer survivor, I cannot express strongly enough the importance of being able to receive needed treatment close to home. At a time when emotions are at a high, physical bodies are at a low, and fear is strong, that is when patients most need to be near family and loved ones. Unfortunately those of us in southern Illinois often have to commute several hours to the city for advanced medical care, creating added costs for food, lodging, gas, and loss of income due to extra time away from jobs. These items, along with separation from those who can most comfort us, add to the trauma of the diagnosis.

Southern Illinois Healthcare is striving to lead the cancer fight for people in this area. Their efforts in creating The Breast Center where services flow together seamlessly have been a blessing to those of us needing their assistance. The addition of a cancer specialist who will follow me through all phases of the disease has added to my peace of mind.

I greatly appreciate the efforts SIH is making to bring comprehensive cancer treatment to the area and respectfully ask you to decide in favor of Southern Illinois Healthcare.

Sincerely,



Donna Youngblood  
6 Douglas Drive  
Herrin, IL 62948

March 1, 2013

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

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Respectfully,

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March 1, 2013

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Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley Stowers". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Respectfully,".

March 1, 2013

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Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

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Respectfully,

*Helen Edmonds*  
*(Breast Cancer Survivor)*

March 1, 2013

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Respectfully,

*Angela Love*

*Cancer Survivor for 38 years (1<sup>st</sup> Time)  
Rhabdomyosarcoma and 19 years (2<sup>nd</sup> Time) Breast CA*

March 1, 2013

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Respectfully,

*Ms. Delia Sims*