

SIU School of Medicine

March 11, 2013

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

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2013

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: SIH Cancer Center, Project #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am taking this opportunity to voice my enthusiastic support 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.

For cancer patients in this region, the road to recovery is often the road itself. Patients often need to travel frequently to major metropolitan areas outside of Illinois. Doctors estimate that a cancer patient could have more than 100 such trips in the first year alone. This is not only expensive, but can be exhausting both mentally and physically for the patients as well as their family and friends.

With SIH's vision, cancer patients from this area of rural Southern Illinois can receive care under one roof, centrally located along the Route 13 corridor. Medical oncology, radiation oncology, imaging, infusions services, and support will be readily accessible.

Many of the patients in the counties SIH serves are among the poorest and medically underserved regions in Illinois. In fact, the federal government designates each of the seven counties in SIH's service area as Health Professional Shortage Area(s) for Primary Care. Furthermore, many of these same counties have the highest cancer incident rates in the state.

SIH's mission to bring doctors, surgeons, nurses, radiologists and support staff together under one roof ensures these patients will get the right care at the right time in the right setting.

Respectfully,


Penelope K. Tippy, MD
Professor, Family and Community Medicine
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2013

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

March 1, 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,

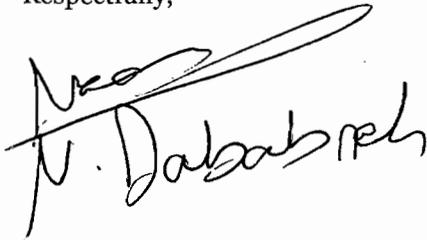
I am taking this opportunity to voice my enthusiastic endorsement of Southern Illinois Healthcare's effort to build a comprehensive, freestanding cancer center to serve patients throughout a seven county region of rural southern Illinois. Thousands of these patients live in the most impoverished counties 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,


N. Dababreh

March 1, 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,

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

No matter where you live, the mention of the word "cancer" strikes fear. To begin with, a fear of the rigorous road someone is about to face. And for many, fear of the road itself.

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,

Esther L. Bathon

March 1, 2013

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Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

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P.O. Box 333
Golconda IL 62938

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Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

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Respectfully,

Nancy Herbert
Cancer Survivor of 14 years
1200 S. Rocky Comfort Rd
Makanda, IL 62958

March 12, 2013
20 Thomas Lane
Creal Springs Il 62922-1401
lauraludy2u@yahoo.com

Ms. Courtney R. Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West 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.

In October of 1987, I had a modified radical mastectomy of the left breast with 14 nodes removed from under my left arm. I had no chemotherapy. Praise the Lord. I am a breast cancer survivor of 25 plus years. I was also diagnosed with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (non-curable) in 2003. I had 6 rounds of chemotherapy and am now 9 ½ years in remission.

I was blessed in 1987 that I did not have chemotherapy and equally as blessed to only have 6 treatments with my lymphoma as I took my chemotherapy in St. Louis. It would be so nice that southern Illinois would have a cancer center here and patients would not have to drive to St. Louis or any other major metropolitan area. As you know my lymphoma is non curable and can return at any time. So, having the center in southern Illinois would really benefit me.

I am thankful that Southern Illinois Healthcare has committed to lead the cancer fight for people of this region.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Respectfully,



Laura Thomas

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,

Robert Swafford

509 W. Jones St

West Frankfort, Al. 62896

Builder, Contractor, Property Owner - Retired

Korean War Vet., Park Board President, (During construction of the recreational building and Pool. Job Manager)!

3-12-13

Mrs. Courtney R. Query
Administrator

Ill. Health Facilities Service Review Board
Re: SIH Cancer Center, Project # 13-005

Dear Ms. Query,

My name is Darma Cannon, 80 years of age, and a cancer survivor.

I would like to express my support for the SIH Cancer Center building proposal in southern Illinois.

In January 2009 I had a lump removed in my left breast, which proved to be cancer. It was wonderful that there was a place like the Cancer Center approximately 30 miles from home that I could go to for the treatment and care I needed. Driving to & from a city would have been an added burden. Not only the drive, but the expense involved.

The mention of "cancer" makes the fear unbearable at times, but finding a place like the Breast Center in southern Illinois gives renewed strength & hope.

Everyone connected with this wonderful facility is "A.1" - not only do they care, but

are very professional. I pray you
will consider this building proposal,
which will make such a difference
in so many lives.

When I walk through the doors
at the Center, I know I'm going
to get the care I need, and you
can't ask for anything better than
that.

Thank you & God Bless
Norma J. Cannon