

**RECEIVED**

MAR 22 2013

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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,

Please accept this letter as my wholehearted endorsement—without reservation—for Southern Illinois Healthcare's commitment to build and operate a freestanding cancer center in the heart of southern Illinois.

For cancer patients in this region, the road to recovery is often the road itself. Patients often need to make frequent trips to a major metropolitan area outside Illinois. Doctors estimate that a cancer patient could log up to 100 trips to and from their appointments, infusions and hospitalizations in the first year of care alone. Not only is this road to recovery expensive, it is exhaustive mentally, physically and emotionally for the patient, their friends and families.

Not so the case anymore. With SIH's vision, cancer patients from throughout a seven county area of rural southern Illinois can receive streamlined care under one roof, centrally located along the Route 13 corridor. Medical oncology, radiation oncology, imaging, testing, infusion services, support, rehabilitation and recovery—just to name a few—will not be separated by miles, but by a few steps.

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,



Paul Schald, MD

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

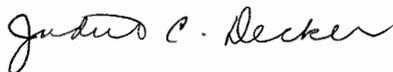
No matter where you live, the mention of the word "cancer" strikes fear. To begin with, a fear of the rigorous road someone is about to face. And for many, fear of the road itself.

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,



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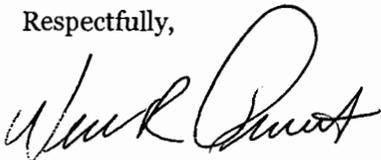
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Respectfully,



Cancer Survivor

Prostate 10 years.

Lung 1 year.

March 1, 2013

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

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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.

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.

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Respectfully,

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

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761  
RE: SIH Cancer Center, Project #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery

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

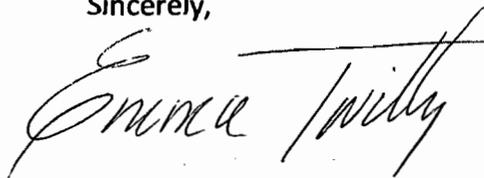
I have battled breast cancer like millions of people. The word cancer is like a weight of uncertainty. You have so many emotions running through your mind. What am I about to face? How far do I have to go? What do I need to do? What kind of treatments will I have to get? With all of this going on, a person shouldn't have to worry about can I afford to get there, how high is gas, feeling ill on a long trip home because I can't afford to stay in an hotel overnight. I won't be able to afford to get a meal because I have to pay for gas. Cancer is scary enough without having to deal with all of this.

Knowing that I didn't have to make frequent trips hours away from home when I didn't feel well from the treatments was so greatly appreciated. Being able to not to have to pay for hotel and meals was a weight lifted off of me. Knowing that I would be in my own home the same day, was such a comfort. I could concentrate on getting better and feeling better which is so important.

No one should have to do without treatments just because of the expense associated with travel, gas, hotel and meals. Southern Illinois Healthcare in my opinion has always been committed to lead the fight for people in this region and I so greatly appreciate that.

They have brought more cancer specialists here and have built the best accredited programs, such as The Breast Center which I can't give enough praise to. Having comprehensive medical treatment for cancer so close to home makes all the difference. In the lives of people suffering with this disease it can mean the world. I support the SIH Center building proposal in Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emma Twitty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the top of the "E".

Emma Twitty