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MAR 25 2013

TED G. VAN ACKER, DO
FAOCD
Board Certified Dermatologist

Member of:

- American Society of Dermatologic Surgery
- American Academy of Dermatology
- American Osteopathic College of Dermatology
- American Osteopathic Association

March 18, 2013

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

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: SIH Cancer Center, Project #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery,

Please accept this letter as my 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.

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,



Ted G. Van Acker, D.O.

DEREK G. KENNEASTER, MD
Board Certified Dermatologist

Member of:

- American Board of Dermatology
- American Society of Dermatologic Surgery
- American Academy of Dermatology
- Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

ROBERT J. WILT, MD

GERRI DYER, FNP-BC

NATALIE FINNIE, FNP-BC

MELODY HOF, PA-C

STEPHANIE NATYSHOK, PA-C

NATALIE SPILLER, PA-C

SHANDA SWAGLER, FNP-BC

Locations

THE ANNEX BUILDING
220 N. PARK AVE., SUITE TWO
HERRIN, IL 62948
(618) 942-3344
FAX (618) 942-5045

- Anna, IL
- Centralia, IL
- DuQuoin, IL
- Flora, IL
- Harrisburg, IL
- McLeansboro, IL
- Murphysboro, IL
- Salem, IL
- Sparta, IL
- Vandalia, IL
- West Frankfort, IL

1 Starlight Lane
Carbondale, IL
20 March, 2013

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

Re: SIH Cancer Center, Project #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery,

Imagine you have cancer. Imagine your fear, anger, despair, and your worry for family members.

Now imagine your physician tells you, "the **good news** is there is a treatment with a 70% cure rate." Then they pause and say, "the **bad news** is you have to travel to St. Louis to get it. 3 days a week for 4 months. Like clockwork, no matter what the weather." Your insurance rep demands "why do you have to go so far? Isn't there someplace closer?" You say no. They won't pay for most of your mileage or hotels or meals. Your partner's and friends' bosses won't allow extra sick days for this. Vacation days burn up quickly.

Nobody tells you how hard it is to time your vomiting on the trip home so it lines up with the available rest stops on I-64. Or how to get the smell out of the car when you don't make it.

You don't know anybody in the St. Louis hospital. Your doctor isn't there, and when you are hospitalized it's an expensive trip for visitors. So you become a number. A chart read by strangers.

I am a cancer survivor. Twice. I was in chemo for 12 months. I had days I was so sick that when I could muster the strength to take a shower I had to go to bed after the shower to recover from the exertion! Imagine what 2.5 hours in the car would do to patients like me.

It is imperative the SIH Cancer Center building proposal succeeds. We have more oncologists and surgeons in Southern Illinois than ever. Traveling just "down the road" for care makes all the difference. Being hospitalized where friends, family and clergy can easily drop by to hold your hand or share gossip or bring a smile is an incalculable part of recovery. This Center will help all of that.

It's bad enough cancer kills patients. Having to travel to obtain treatment shouldn't kill us too.

Sincerely,



Sandra L. Shea, Ph.D.

One Concordia Drive
Carbondale, IL 62902
March 20, 2013

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

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MAR 25 2013

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

RE: SIH CANCER CENTER, PROJECT #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery,

As an eleven-year kidney cancer and two-year breast cancer survivor, I am writing this letter to express my support for the SIH Cancer Center building proposal in Southern Illinois.

Regardless of where a person lives, the mention of the word "cancer" as a diagnosis rattles one's being to the core. Cancer surgery and post surgery treatment is a twofold challenge.

Our family lives in Carbondale, the location of one of the best hospitals south of Route 64. When a routine health checkup in 2002 showed a suspicious spot on my right kidney, we could have chosen to head to specialists in St. Louis. However, with three small children that did not seem to be a wise choice. My husband, a general surgeon, and I did not even think of traveling a long distance to get help. We chose to stay right here in our home town. I have done just fine with one kidney, had chest x-rays yearly as prescribed by my kidney doctor, then biannually after the first five years. No chemo or radiation treatments were necessary. We thank God for His healing hand through our local physicians and facilities.

In September 2011, a routine yearly mammogram showed a stellar pattern in my left breast which required further testing. In less than a month from initial diagnosis of early stage 1 breast cancer, I again went under the surgeon's knife - for a lumpectomy, followed by 33 radiation treatments, genetic mapping, and three-month check ups with my local oncologist who has put me on a daily anti-cancer prescription, esemestane, for five years. Our children, for this round of their mother's cancer, were grown, two had attained their BSN, RN degrees, the third had his BS in biology heading for medical school. The children were part of their mother's local support team, taking me to radiation treatments daily and helping care for our 97 year-old neighbor, also maternal grandmother who still lived in her own home with the support of her family members. How much more could a person be blessed?

We would like to see a similar scenario of choice for other cancer victims in our region. Forget the all-day trips to St. Louis, the long waits for appointments, the overnight stays adding extra stress and expense during an already trying time.

Our family is investing in the proposed Southern Illinois Healthcare Cancer Center with monthly payroll deductions. My husband, past retirement age and with two children in various stages of medical school applications, chooses to continue his practice of medicine here in Carbondale. Our daughters, who both got their nursing degrees in the St. Louis area and did rotations in many St. Louis area hospitals, came back to Southern Illinois convinced that no finer care is given to patients that that received right here in our own back yard.

Please allow my voice to be added to that of many others in this area who support the building of the SIH Cancer Center in our area...close to home.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen M. Clutts". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Kathleen M. Clutts

kmc

March 1, 2013

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Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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,

Surrell Cook

I had breast cancer 2 1/2 yrs. ago, no chemo but had radiation through SIH and felt so thankful that I had what I consider excellent care from Mr. George Hao and staff. Am thankful we have excellent facilities in our area. I feel the Breast Center in Carbondale has all the latest in care of breast cancer, top in surgeons. A larger center would be a blessing to all of Southern Illinois. I live 15 minutes away from the new proposed center.

March 1, 2013

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

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SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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Respectfully,

Maibye Janner, Cancer patient

March 22, 2013

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MAR 25 2013

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

RE: SIH Cancer Center, Project #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery:

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

As a six (6) year survivor of breast cancer I have personally experienced the fear of "Cancer" and with each and every new ache and pain that I develop, that horrible fear resurfaces.

Even though all of my medical providers were in my local area, it was still such a wearisome task to travel to several locations for testing, doctors appointments, surgery and treatment. I know that anyone who has been diagnosed with cancer knows and understands just how hard it is on you, as a patient, to have to go through it.

I hope and pray each day that my cancer is gone forever, but even though I am a survivor, I still face a life time of testing and doctor's appointments to stay on top of it. Therefore, I am very much in favor of a Cancer Center being built in Southern Illinois. The very idea of having everything done under "one" roof and so close to home is very comforting.

Very truly yours,



Linda Hankins
605 North Logan Street
Marion, IL 62959

March 1, 2013

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Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor

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Re: SIH Cancer Center, Project #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery,

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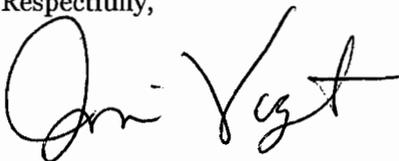
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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Vest". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

March 1, 2013

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
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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,

Paul J. Gray, MD

March 1, 2013

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