



February 7, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson (2nd Floor)
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing this letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's proposed modernization and expansion. The project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

As the region's only tertiary care facility, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has continued to grow in size and in scope of the services it provides to our regional community. Many of my patients come from nearby counties with some of the highest unemployment rates in the state. For them, having access to advanced surgical care close to home not only helps them physically, but also financially. In addition, the hospital's willingness to provide care to my patients – regardless of their ability to pay – eases yet another seemingly insurmountable burden for those vulnerable populations that need help the most.

Over the years, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has continued to successfully pursue and recruit a variety of family practice physicians and surgical specialists and subspecialists in the fields of heart, neurosurgery and neurology and cancer in particular. Demand for these types of complex surgeries is on the rise, as is the space needed within the operating suites and intensive care unit to accommodate these patients and surgical specialists.

I wholeheartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to take this region to yet another higher level of sophisticated, exceptional health care.

Sincerely,



Naresh Ahuja, MD, FACS., FASMBS.
Advanced Laparoscopic, Robotic General/ Bariatric Surgeon
Medical Director: New Life Weight Loss Center, Herrin IL
Clinical Assistant Professor: SIU School of Medicine
Email: naahuja@sih.net / naresh_ahuja@hotmail.com
Off: 618 988 6171 Fax: 618 988 6172



02/06/2014

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

Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing this letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's proposed modernization and expansion. The project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

As the region's only tertiary care facility, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has continued to grow in size and in scope of the services it provides to our regional community. Many of my patients come from nearby counties with some of the highest unemployment rates in the state. For them, having access to advanced surgical care close to home not only helps them physically, but also financially. In addition, the hospital's willingness to provide care to my patients – regardless of their ability to pay – eases yet another seemingly insurmountable burden for those vulnerable populations that need help the most.

Over the years, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has continued to successfully pursue and recruit a variety of family practice physicians and surgical specialists and subspecialists in the fields of heart, neurosurgery and neurology and cancer in particular. Demand for these types of complex surgeries is on the rise, as is the space needed within the operating suites and intensive care unit to accommodate these patients and surgical specialists.

I wholeheartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to take this region to yet another higher level of sophisticated, exceptional health care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Uday Shankar'.

Dr. Uday R. Shankar

Hospitalist, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale

Southern Illinois Healthcare, SIH Medical Group (618) 457-5200,

SIH MEDICAL GROUP

at Center for Medical Arts



2601 West Main Street, Carbondale, IL 62901
T 618.549.5361 F 618.351.4878

February 4, 2014

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

RE: PROJECT 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing this letter of support to endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's proposed modernization and expansion. The project includes an increase in the number of intensive care beds as well as operating rooms in order to address a current and future shortage of beds and surgical facilities and space needed for the care of our patients here in Carbondale as well as the surrounding region.

Memorial Hospital of Carbondale is the only tertiary care facility in the region and it has experienced a continued growth in size as well as scope of services that it has been providing to our regional community and our patients. Many of the patients I treat come from nearby counties and, as you are well aware of, the surrounding area has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state. Creating access to the basic as well as advanced surgical care and services close to home not only helps them physically, but also financially. These patients have a very hard time traveling greater distances or going to nearby cities in order to get their much needed treatment. In addition, the hospital willingness to provide the care for my patients regardless of their ability to pay is yet another seemingly insurmountable burden for those vulnerable populations that need help the most.

(CONTINUED)

February 4, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

RE: PROJECT 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois

PAGE 2

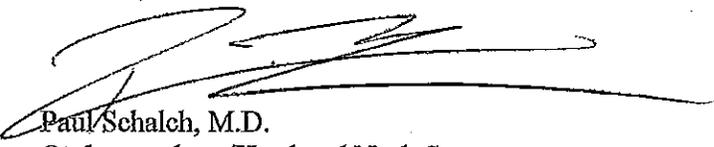
My personal experience with the surgical services as well as critical services at Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has been nothing short of outstanding. The personnel who work

at the facilities are well trained, courteous, and very compassionate to the delivery of care and attention to our patients. However, I have noticed that the shortage in facilities and capabilities has, in some cases, affected my ability to keep my patients in the region and treat them accordingly. The value of keeping our patients home for sophisticated advanced medical procedures and their critical care afterwards is critical in order to address the needs for the patients here locally.

Over the years, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has continued to successfully pursue and recruit a variety of family practice physicians as well as surgical specialists and subspecialties in many fields including, but not limited to, heart, neurosurgery, neurology, as well as cancer in particular. My particular area of interest is head and neck cancer which more often than not involves advanced procedures requiring the latest technologies as well as all the latest surgical capabilities and advanced postoperative care very often in a critical care/ICU environment. The demand for these types of complex surgeries is on the rise and the space needed within the operating rooms and intensive care unit to accommodate these patients and surgical specialists is more and more critical.

I wholeheartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the certificate of need in order to take this region to yet another higher level of sophisticated exceptional healthcare that is easily accessible and available for everybody.

Sincerely,



Paul Schalch, M.D.

Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery

Center for Medical Arts

2601 W. Main Street

Carbondale, IL 62901

Telephone: 618-549-5361

PS:tm

STATE OF ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEES:

CHAIRPERSON,
PUBLIC UTILITIES

MEMBER:

ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT
HEALTH CARE LICENSES
LABOR & COMMERCE
PUBLIC SAFETY: POLICE & FIRE



SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:

200-9S STRATTON BLDG.
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
217/782-5131
217/557-0521 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE:

607 S. COMMERCIAL ST., SUITE B
HARRISBURG, IL 62946
618/253-4189
618/253-3136 FAX

BRANDON W. PHELPS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
118TH DISTRICT

January 29, 2014

Courtney R. Avery
Administrator
Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

As State Representative for the 118th Legislative District, I am familiar with the vital resources and services which Southern Illinois Healthcare and specifically Memorial Hospital of Carbondale provides to both the citizens of my District and to the residents of southern Illinois overall.

Through the continuing efforts to recruit additional physicians to MHC's medical staff, the hospital will be able to reduce the need for patients to have access to care outside of our region. This is particularly important since MHC is located in a Health Professional Shortage Area as well as a Medically Underserved Area. Our region has a high elderly and poor population with a poverty rate of 20.2%, which is disproportionately higher than the Illinois average of 13.1%. I am well aware of the SIH policy to provide care regardless of a patient's ability to pay. Therefore, SIH provides a significant amount of charity care and bad debt write-offs.

I wish to acknowledge the important role that SIH and Memorial Hospital of Carbondale plays in providing access to quality health care throughout all of southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon W. Phelps". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Brandon Phelps
IL House of Representatives

SIH MEDICAL GROUP

at Center for Medical Arts



2601 West Main Street, Carbondale, IL 62901
T 618.549.5361 F 618.351.4878

February 7, 2014

Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Regarding: Project 13-069 Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing this letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's proposed modernization and expansion. The project proposes to increase the number of intensive care beds and operating rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

As this region's only tertiary care facility, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has continued to grow in size and scope of the services it provides to our regional community. Many of my patients come from nearby counties with some of the highest unemployment rates in the state. For them, having access to advanced surgical care close to home, not only helps them physically but also financially. In addition, the hospital's willingness to provide care to my patients regardless of their ability to pay eases yet another seemingly insurmountable burden for these patients. They certainly need help the most I believe.

Over the years Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has continued to successfully pursue and recruit a variety of family practice physicians and surgical specialists and subspecialists in the fields of heart, neurosurgery and neurology and in cancer care as well. Demand for these types of complex surgeries is on the rise as is the space needed within the operating suites and intensive care unit to accommodate these patients and surgical specialties.

I wholeheartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the certificate of need to take this region to yet another higher level of sophisticated and exceptional healthcare.

Sincerely yours,


James J. Pavlovich, MD
Center for Medical Arts
Carbondale, IL

DISTRICT OFFICES:
700 N. FRONT
P. O. BOX 517
OKAWVILLE, IL 62271
PHONE: 618/243-9014
FAX: 618/243-5376



DISTRICT OFFICES:
300 E. MAIN
CARBONDALE, IL 62901
PHONE: 618/529-3866
FAX: 618/529-2788

SENATOR DAVID LUECHTEFELD
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
103B STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
PHONE: 217/782-8137
FAX: 217/782-4079

January 22, 2014

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

As State Senator for the 58th. State Senate District, it has been my personal pleasure and privilege over the years to work with the highly dedicated professionals affiliated with Southern Illinois Healthcare.

On many occasions I had had the opportunity to talk and work with SIH officials and witness their commitment toward providing access to the highest quality of care for our citizens in southern Illinois. Their continuing partnerships and efforts to modernize and expand access to services for our residents attest to that commitment. Additionally, the implementation of Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's Physician Recruitment Plan, which has already resulted in the recruitment of a wide range of surgical specialties including sub-specialists, is yet another example of their dedication to comprehensive care.

Further, SIH's policy is to never turn anyone away for needed healthcare services, regardless of their ability to pay. I understand that during fiscal year 2013, MHC's total charity care amount was \$23,152,731 which was an increase of approximately 17% from 2012.

I look forward to continuing to work with the committed and dedicated professionals of Southern Illinois Healthcare as they continue to provide the much needed access to quality care for the residents of our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Luechtefeld".

David Luechtefeld
State Senator
58th District



JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Promoting Health, Preventing Illness, Protecting our Environment, and Preparing for Emergencies

January 31, 2014

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

Re: Project #13-069 Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

As the director of Jackson County Health Department, I am taking this opportunity to share my support for Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's planned expansion. This project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

Over the years, I have watched Memorial Hospital of Carbondale evolve and transform into the quality, regional healthcare provider that it is today. Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has become a hub for healthcare for residents living in the Southernmost tip of Illinois. They have taken this responsibility seriously and have grown their services to meet the health care needs of this region. This stewardship is also demonstrated in the hospital's policy to provide care to patients, regardless of their ability to pay, through its charity care program. The hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of the communities it serves is well documented.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's modernization and expansion endeavor.

Thank you for your time and attention to this project. Please feel free to reach out to me by phone (618) 684-3143 ext. 100, or email Miriam@jchdonline.org or at 415 Health Department Rd., Murphysboro, IL 62966.

Sincerely,

Miriam Link-Mullison
Administrator

P.O. Box 307
Murphysboro, IL 62966-0307
Phone 618/684-3143
Fax 618/684-6023
www.jchdonline.org



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Erica Kaufman MD
INFECTIOUS DISEASE/INTERNAL MEDICINE
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MEDICAL SERVICES

5 February 2014

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

Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

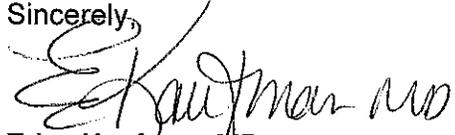
I am writing this letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's proposed modernization and expansion. The project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

As the region's only tertiary care facility, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has continued to grow in size and in scope of the services it provides to our regional community. Many of my patients come from nearby counties with some of the highest unemployment rates in the state. For them, having access to advanced surgical care close to home not only helps them physically, but also financially. As an infectious disease doctor, my patients require comprehensive care. They need access to general surgeons for debridement and amputations, neurosurgeons for abscess drainage, interventional radiology for drain and catheter placement, as well as the other many specialists who work at Memorial Hospital. In addition, the hospital's willingness to provide care to my patients – regardless of their ability to pay – eases yet another seemingly insurmountable burden for those vulnerable populations that need help the most. The hospital's healthcare assistance program really is a miracle for many of my patients, who would not otherwise have access to surgeons, IV antibiotics, wound care and other much needed treatment modalities.

Over the years, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has continued to successfully pursue and recruit a variety of general practitioners and subspecialists in the fields of heart, neurosurgery and neurology and cancer in particular. Demand for these types of complex surgeries is on the rise, as is the space needed within the operating suites and intensive care unit to accommodate these patients and surgical specialists.

I wholeheartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to take this region to yet another higher level of sophisticated, exceptional health care.

Sincerely,



Erica Kaufman, MD

2601 W. Main Street
Carbondale, IL 62901



Post Office Box 23
Carbondale, Illinois 62903
618-713-9210
jacksonbiz.org

February 5, 2014

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

Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

Jackson Growth Alliance strongly supports Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's planned expansion. The project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

As business and government leaders in Jackson County, Jackson Growth Alliance's Board of Directors affirm Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's critical role as not only one of the region's largest employers, but also as a leading provider of quality healthcare as has been demonstrated in national accolades in cardiac and stroke care in recent years. Additionally, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale and parent organization Southern Illinois Healthcare have done what they said they were going to do by recruiting a number of new physicians and specialists so patients do not have to leave the region for the medical care they need. Furthermore, many of the communities in the hospital's service area are among the most impoverished in Illinois with a number of uninsured and underinsured patients.

We applaud the organization's mission to provide care for their patients regardless of their ability to pay – a figure backed up by the substantial amount of charity care the hospital provides each year. Memorial Hospital of Carbondale is vital to the economic strength of southern Illinois and to the thousands of patients that depend on the hospital every day.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at 2918 Kent Drive, Carbondale, Illinois 62901.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Doherty", written in a cursive style.

Jeff Doherty
Executive Director

DISTRICT OFFICE:
501 WEST DEYOUNG
SUITE 5
MARION, IL 62959
(618) 997-9697
FAX (618) 997-9807

CAPITOL OFFICE:
269-S STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
(217) 782-1051
FAX (217) 782-0882



COMMITTEES:

- REVENUE - CHAIRMAN
- JUDICIARY I - CIVIL LAW
VICE CHAIRMAN
- LABOR - CHAIRMAN
- TRANSPORTATION:
VEHICLES & SAFETY

JOHN E. BRADLEY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 117TH DISTRICT

January 31, 2014

Courtney R. Avery
Administrator
Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms Avery:

As State Representative for the 117th District, I have experienced firsthand the caring and compassion exemplified by the dedicated professionals affiliated with Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH).

Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with officials at SIH on numerous issues as they continue their commitment to providing access to the highest quality of care to the residents of my district and throughout Southern Illinois.

I am also aware of the significant level of care SIH provides to low-income, uninsured and vulnerable populations and their policy of never turning away any patient for a needed service regardless of their ability to pay.

Southern Illinois Healthcare is a vital resource to the residents of Southern Illinois, and I support their on-going commitment to provide the best and most comprehensive healthcare services to all of our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Bradley".

John E. Bradley
State Representative, 117th District

CAPITOL OFFICE:
202-N STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
(217) 782-0387
FAX: (217) 557-7213



DISTRICT OFFICE:
300 EAST MAIN
CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS 62901
(618) 457-5787
FAX: (618) 457-2990
rep.bost@hotmail.com

MIKE BOST

STATE REPRESENTATIVE · 115TH DISTRICT

January 22, 2014

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

Throughout my years of service as State Representative, it has been my personal privilege to work with the dedicated professionals at Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH).

As a not-for-profit system with over 3,000 employees, SIH provides critical general and tertiary care for approximately 240,000 residents throughout a 7 county service area covering the southern-most counties of Illinois. Within the 7 county area there exists high elderly and poor populations. At 20.2%, the poverty rate in southern Illinois is disproportionately higher than the Illinois average of 13.1%. As a result, SIH sees a large number of patients either with no insurance at all or underinsured with no means to pay for the balance that is left after their insurance payment. I have always been particularly impressed with the SIH policy of never turning any patient away for a needed service, regardless of their ability to pay.

Southern Illinois Healthcare is a dedicated, progressive and critical resource to the citizens of our area and I support their commitment to provide the best possible quality of care for all of our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Bost".

Mike Bost
State Representative