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

DISTRICT OFFICES:
342 NORTH STREET
SUITE C
MURPHYSBORO, IL 62966
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

RECEIVED
MAR 19 2015
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

March 12, 2015

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

Re: Project #15-007 Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

I would like to take this opportunity to share how essential Herrin Hospital is to the greater southern Illinois community as a provider of quality care for over a century. As a safety net hospital in a region with a 20.8% poverty level, I have always appreciated the organization's mission to provide healthcare to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. Their organizational values are clearly documented, as Herrin Hospital consistently provides a tremendous amount of charity care via its Health Assistance Program and bad debt write-offs. In fact, during fiscal year 2014, Herrin Hospital's total charity care amount totaled $14,168,026, an increase of over 26% from 2012.

The hospital's physician recruitment efforts have brought over a half-dozen surgical specialists to the facility in recent years, which has decreased outmigration for inpatient and outpatient surgeries. Ongoing recruitment efforts aim to bring in at least three more surgical specialists over the next 12-18 months. This is especially crucial for low-income and vulnerable families in southern Illinois, particularly due in part to the region's dual designation as a Health Professional Shortage Area and a Medically Underserved Area.

As a legislator whose region includes Herrin Hospital, I can attest to the hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of the communities it serves and look forward to the facility's growth and development in the years to come.

Sincerely,

David Luechtefeld

David Luechtefeld
State Senator
58th District

CITY OF HERRIN

MARLENE SIMPSON, *CITY CLERK*
300 NORTH PARK AVENUE
HERRIN, ILLINOIS 62948
(618) 942-3175 • Fax (618) 988-9115

RECEIVED
MAR 19 2015
HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

March 16, 2015

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

Re: Project #15-007 Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am submitting this formal letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. As a lifelong resident of the city of Herrin, I can attest to the facility's commitment to my community not only as a provider of healthcare, but also as a business leader and good steward. During my stay at Herrin Hospital I received the utmost excellent care.

For example, when the city's largest employer, Maytag, closed its doors nearly 13 years ago, this hospital assisted city and economic development leaders in retraining displaced workers. This joint endeavor ultimately resulted in new, lifelong health care careers for many of former Maytag employees. Today, the hospital provides jobs to over 900 residents from across the region. I am also especially grateful for the hospital's forward-thinking physician recruitment efforts and the breadth and depth of surgical specialists that now offer services at my hometown hospital. Over its 100-year history, "my hospital" has grown in size and sophistication; and I know from the dramatic increase in surgical cases over the last few years that this modernization and expansion is needed.

I wholeheartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to usher in another era of consistent, advanced health care in southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Marlene Simpson

Marlene Simpson, City Clerk
300 N. Park Avenue
Herrin, IL 62948

MS:slh

First Southern Bank

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HEALTH FA
SERVICES RE

March 16, 2015

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

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I wholeheartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to usher in another era of consistent, advanced health care in southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Kelly Green

Kelly Green, CRCM
SVP and Chief Information Officer, First Southern Bank
114 West Monroe Street
Herrin, IL 62948

RECEIVED
MAR 19 2015
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

17 March 2015

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

Re: Project #15-007, Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

By way of introduction, I am a physician engaged in the practice of Anesthesiology serving the communities of Carbondale, Murphysboro, and Herrin since 1993. During my tenure in Southern Illinois, I have witnessed growth in the health care industry across all of the aforementioned communities, but none as significantly and dramatically as Herrin in the past few years. I can personally attest to the need for the modernization project to better serve our patients. As a result, please accept my letter of support for the proposed modernization and expansion of surgical services at Herrin Hospital.

The dramatic increase in patient volumes is in large part due to a significant advance in surgical technologies- something that was never anticipated when the operating rooms were originally designed. We are presently trying to provide our patients 21st century surgical technology into an operating theater designed for 1950's era equipment. Needless to say, the physical space required for modern day surgical equipment and procedures far exceeds the original design concept of the existing operating areas at Herrin Hospital. The project proposes to not only replace and expand antiquated operating room space, but also update and expand several ancillary areas to surgical services, including but not limited to replacement and modernization of endoscopy and minor procedure rooms, and replacement and expansion of surgical prep and post-anesthesia recovery.

This request comes on the heels of dramatic increases in surgical cases and surgical hours over the last four years in particular. With the successful recruitment of additional surgical specialists to meet the regional health needs of our community, operating room space is well over capacity. At present, the existing operating rooms are sized extremely small by current clinical standards. With the proliferation of high-tech equipment and larger beds that are used today, the lack of space is a significant drawback.

This proposed modernization and expansion will not only reduce outmigration to nearby states for advanced care, but will also continue to meet the health needs of

the regional community, which includes some of the most vulnerable patient populations in Illinois. As a safety net health system, parent company Southern Illinois Healthcare provides a significant level of care to low-income and uninsured patients, with a large portion of that care being provided at Herrin Hospital.

Thank you for your consideration of this most worthwhile project.

Kindest regards,

Gardner Kenny, M.D.
Chairman Department of Anesthesiology
Southern Illinois Health Services
Brigham Anesthesia Associates
35 Albany Road, Suite C
Carbondale, IL 62903