

RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND ADMINISTRATION

RECEIVED

MAR 26 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

15-007

March 18, 2015

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing in support of Herrin Hospital's proposal to expand and modernize several critical departments at the hospital.

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. They consistently provide a tremendous amount of charity care via their Health Assistance Program and bad debt write off. Last year, Herrin Hospital's total charity care amounted to \$14,168,026, an increase of over 26% from 2012.

Southern Illinois' dual designation as a Health Professional Shortage Area and a Medically Underserved Area makes the hospital's physician recruitment efforts critically important. In recent years, they have recruited over a half dozen surgical specialists and are working on bringing in three more in the next 12 to 18 months, thereby decreasing outmigration for inpatient and outpatient surgeries.

Herrin Hospital's proposal will improve their ability to provide essential surgical, endoscopic, and minor procedure services to all the patients it serves, both insured and uninsured. I urge you to give it the most serious consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator

March 15, 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 Past President of the Herrin Chamber of Commerce, 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.

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 the hospital's forward-thinking physician recruitment efforts and the breadth and depth of surgical specialists that now offer services at my hometown hospital. Herrin Hospital employees and members of their management team participate and provide leadership to many charitable and civic organizations. They provide informational opportunities where at citizens of Herrin can meet with medical staff personnel to learn more about the ever-growing changes in medical procedures. They are a true corporate and community partner. 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,


Joe Loenerts
9594 Stotlar Road
Johnston City, IL 62951

March 17, 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

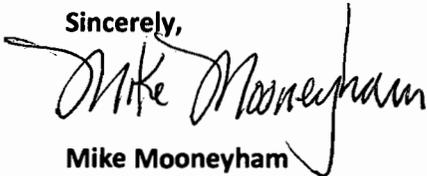
Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing this letter of support to endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. As a lifelong resident of Herrin, I can say without a doubt, that this facility provides not only superior healthcare, is a community business leader but is also a strong supporter of the educational and athletic endeavors of Herrin Unit 4 school district.

I am the athletic director at Herrin High School and I can personally attest to the support and generosity of Herrin Hospital. With our state money being reduced on a yearly basis, our athletic budget was suffering. We needed certain supplies for our sports to function and we needed to find a way to pay for these necessities. I sent a small request for medical supplies, to the hospital that we needed at our football and track complex. My small request soon turned into a full-blown major project that resulted in our complex having its own training room. Herrin Hospital completely furnished our room with anything and everything we needed. From medical furniture to AED's to medical supplies, we have the finest on-site medical facility in our area. We are very proud of our facility and when opposing teams come to play, they are amazed at what a great facility we have. I feel very proud of what we have to offer and Herrin Hospital made it happen.

Without hesitation, I endorse the hospital in their pursuit of the Certificate of Need and their efforts to expand and modernize their awesome healthcare facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Mooneyham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Mike Mooneyham

Athletic Director at Herrin High School

700 North 10th

Herrin, IL 62948

March 18th, 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,

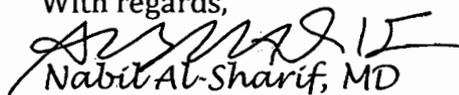
Please accept my letter of support for the proposed modernization and expansion of surgical services at Herrin Hospital. The project proposes to not only replace and expand antiquated operating room space, but also update and expand several ancillary areas to surgical services, including but not limited 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.

With regards,


Nabil Al-Sharif, MD
Prairie Cardiovascular consultants
409 west Oak Street
Carbondale, IL 62901

Saliba Insurance Agency Inc
PO Box 218
Herrin, IL 62948
618-942-2556

March 20, 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

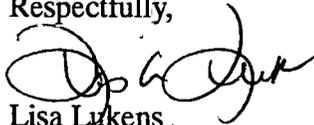
Dear Ms. Avery,

I am sending this letter endorsing the expansion of the Herrin Hospital. The hospital continually supports the community of Herrin not only as a healthcare provider but as a leader.

Herrin Hospital is providing essential jobs needed in southern Illinois. They currently employ over 900 residents from the surrounding area. They continually recruit physician specialists to provide our community with the most modern services. Herrin Hospital has grown in size and sophistication making this expansion necessary to continue helping the area citizens with the up-most care.

I endorse the pursuit of project #15-0007 for Herrin Hospital to provide consistent advanced health care for southern Illinois.

Respectfully,



Lisa Lukens
102 E Johnson Street
Energy, IL 62933



JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE
700 Logan College Road
Carterville, Illinois 62918

March 20, 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,

As president of John A. Logan College, I am submitting this formal letter of support endorsing Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. Herrin Hospital is a vital part of the Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH) system. John A. Logan College and SIH have had a longstanding relationship for many years. Its various health facilities have provided clinical sites for the College's health programs.

With over 900 employees, Herrin Hospital is renowned for its rehabilitation, orthopedic and bariatric services. The newly expanded Emergency Department included the region's first accredited Chest Pain Center. The hospital is also home to a nationally acclaimed acute rehabilitation program offered through an alliance with the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Additional accomplishments of national merit include success in rapid stroke care and cardiac care (American Heart Association/American Stroke Association) and Bariatric Center of Excellence honors.

In its 100-year history, Herrin Hospital has always strived to stay abreast of medical and technological advancements to provide appropriate care for their patients. This proposed project involves construction of a one-story addition to meet current and future demands for essential surgical, endoscopic and minor procedures to patients in the hospital's primary service area.

Please accept my endorsement of Herrin Hospital's quest to secure state approval for this \$23.7 million project. If I can be of any assistance or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mike Dreith, Ph.D.
President

DIRECT EXTENSION ACCESS: (618) 985-2828 or 457-7676
OPERATOR: (618) 985-3741, 549-7335, 542-8612, 937-3438, TTY 985-2752
WEB SITE: <http://www.jalc.edu>

John A. Logan College does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, or gender orientation.



JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE
700 Logan College Road
Carterville, Illinois 62918

March 20, 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 support the Certificate of Need (CON) for Herrin Hospital's operating room expansion. I worked at Herrin Hospital when this particular operating room was built. That addition was many years ago and Herrin Hospital has grown significantly larger and provides many more services now. I know this because John A. Logan College Nursing programs, which I am the Director, utilizes the hospital heavily for clinical experiences. The expansion would provide more patients the care they need and deserve in the community in which they live. Herrin residents are very loyal to their hospital. Herrin Hospital provides good care, has excellent physicians and staff but, has literally outgrown their operation room department.

Again, I want to emphasize the importance of Herrin Hospital's expansion to allow greater opportunities to provide good patient care in the rural southern Illinois region and to enhance the education of new health care employees, especially nursing. Herrin Hospital needs the expansion desperately.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Falaster, MSN, RN
John A. Logan College
700 Logan Road
Carterville, IL. 62918

DIRECT EXTENSION ACCESS: (618) 985-2828 or 457-7676
OPERATOR: (618) 985-3741, 549-7335, 542-8612, 937-3438, TTY 985-2752
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JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE ■ Carterville, IL 62918

March 20, 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. The project would benefit many of the healthcare programs at John A. Logan College.

The College has had a good long-standing relationship with Southern Illinois Healthcare. SIH's Education and Simulation Center occupies the third floor of the College's E-wing and trains medical personnel continuously.

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,

Tim Daugherty, Ph.D.
Vice-President of Student Affairs and Community Education
John A. Logan College
700 Logan College Road
Carterville, Illinois 62918

TD/slw