

MIKE BOST
12TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1312

1440 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5661

23 PUBLIC SQUARE, SUITE 404
BELLEVILLE, IL 62220
(618) 233-8026

300 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 4
CARBONDALE, IL 62901
(618) 457-5787

March 18, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator, Illinois Health Facilities Review Board
525 West Jefferson (2nd Floor)
Springfield, IL 62761
Re: Project # 15-007 Herrin Hospital

RECEIVED

MAR 27 2015

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Dear Ms. Avery,

I would like to take this opportunity to share how essential Herrin Hospital is to the greater Southern Illinois Community. Herrin hospital has been a provider of quality care in the region for over a century. I have always appreciated the organization's mission to provide healthcare to all patients, regardless of ability to pay as they serve an area with a high rate of poverty. Herrin Hospital consistently provides a tremendous amount of charity care through the Health Assistance Program and bad debt right-offs. I have come to find that Herrin Hospital's charity care totaled more than \$14 million in 2014 alone.

The hospital's physician recruitment efforts have brought over a half-dozen surgical specialists to the facility in recent years. This effort has caused outmigration for inpatient and outpatient surgeries to decrease. Continued recruitment efforts aim to bring in an additional three surgical specialists over the next 12 to 18 months. These specialists are crucial for the low income and vulnerable families in the region, due in part to the region's designations as a Health Professional Shortage Area and Medically Underserved Area.

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

Sincerely,



Mike Bost
Member of Congress

Mark A. Kochan
304 West Clark Trail
Herrin, Illinois 62948

March 24, 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.

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. 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,



Mark A. Kochan



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

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. I can attest to the facility's commitment to my community as a provider of healthcare through the university's various health care programs and as an active business leader.

As president of one of the two state universities with a medical school, I am especially grateful for the hospital's forward-thinking physician recruitment efforts. Herrin Hospital's physician recruitment plan resulted in the addition of eight surgeons in a wide range of specialties and is projected to result in an increase in the number of surgical cases. It is my understanding that three additional surgical specialists (general surgeon, gynecologist, and otolaryngologist) are actively being recruited to meet the increased demand as demonstrated by a 67% increase of surgery hours from 2010 to 2013. As a result, this expansion project plans to replace and expand surgical prep, post anesthesia Recovery Phases I & II for the operating suite alongside a new recovering suite to better serve our community.

I am grateful the hospital provides jobs to over 900 residents from across the region including our graduates. I know from the dramatic increase in surgical cases over the last few years this modernization and expansion is needed. I whole-heartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to usher in another era of consistent, advanced healthcare in southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Randy J. Dunn, President
Southern Illinois University System

Office of the President, Stone Center - Mail Code 6801, 1400 Douglas Drive, Carbondale, Illinois 62901

March 22, 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,

It is with great pride and dedication that I submit this letter of support to endorse Herrin Hospital's expansion project. My family has been part of Herrin since the early 1900's and has grown with Herrin Hospital. Without Herrin Hospital's dedication to growth and the city of Herrin, my family, the city, and surrounding communities would not have survived.

Southern Illinois has felt the effects of a tough economy like every other part of the state. But on top of a tough economy, we feel the effects of struggling industry, the coal industry being hit by government regulation, and the state of Illinois closing prisons in the area. Herrin Hospital and SIH have been a stable employer and dedicated community assistant throughout the years. This includes the collective celebration of Herrin Hospital's existence for 100 years throughout Herrin.

With the growing demand of surgical procedures, the need for more operating rooms and recovery rooms is a top priority for the area. The need for more facilities will only continue to grow and this project will give Herrin Hospital desperately needed facilities to meet those needs.

It is because of these needs that I put my full support and endorsement behind this project. I ask that you accept this letter in the pursuit of the Certificate of Need to help Herrin Hospital.

Sincerely,



James J. Helleny Jr. President
Moneta Enterprises, LLC
PO Box 578
Marion, IL 62959

March 17th, 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 business owner 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.

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,



Tom Harness of Harness TechED
308 N. 16th St.
Herrin, IL 62948

3/23/2015

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 endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. I was born in Herrin Hospital in 1956 and also worked in the X-ray Department at Herrin Hospital in the late seventies. During that time, I witnessed firsthand the crumbling interior walls and old fashioned equipment.

To be honest, there was a period of time that my family and I went elsewhere for our medical needs. It seemed Herrin Hospital had fallen too behind in facilities and personnel.

Of course, being a resident of Herrin it was hard to ignore all the expansion and renovation when it started to occur. It looked flashy but what about the "working parts" inside the new gleaming exterior?

My mother needed a blood transfusion and it was scheduled at Herrin Hospital. We both were amazed at the modern facilities and the personnel and their training. Herrin Hospital had been revitalized.

Subsequently, my mother and I have both had outpatient surgery at Herrin Hospital. My surgery was scheduled from the ER and involved a rather nasty kidney stone. The surgeon personally visited me in the ER and assured me that even though they were booked through the day, the surgical team would stay until they took care of my problem.

Without a moment of hesitation, I proudly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to keep the bar high, providing needed health care in southern Illinois.

Sincerely,



Mike Murphy
402 Emperor Lane
Herrin, IL 62948

March 19, 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

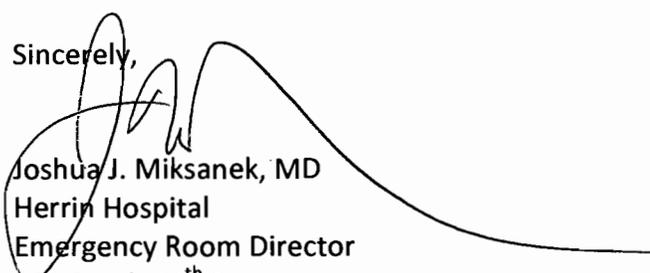
Dear Ms. Avery,

I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Joshua Miksanek. I am not only an emergency physician but also the department head/medical director at Herrin Hospital emergency department. I am grateful for the care provided at Herrin Hospital to patients I take care of. I also live in the community and as a resident of Herrin I am excited for the possibilities of additional services this will allow.

As an Emergency physician I am acutely aware of the need to transfer many patients to St. Louis. I am hopeful these facilities will help decrease the number of patients transferred out of the region. I also see the difficulty when patients have to go to St. Louis, return home and have issues and then need to again be transferred for things we could easily take care of but with the need of continuity of care, and primary surgeon they need to go back to great distances.

As a physician at Herrin Hospital and someone that lives in the community I appreciate your consideration of these changes at Herrin. Project #15-007

Sincerely,



Joshua J. Miksanek, MD
Herrin Hospital
Emergency Room Director
201 South 14th Street
Herrin, IL 62948

MARSHALL BROWNING HOSPITAL

618-542-2146
FAX (618) 542-4756

900 NORTH WASHINGTON, P. O. BOX 192
DU QUOIN, ILLINOIS 62832



March 24, 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 operation room space, but also update and expand several ancillary areas to surgical services, including but not limited to endoscopy and minor procedure rooms, 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, OR space is at a premium. 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. Marshall Browning Hospital has a good working relationship with Herrin Hospital and many of the physicians on its staff. Patients having their surgery closer to home can more easily be referred back to the local community for follow-up care. As a safety net health system, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin A. Gast". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Edwin A. Gast
Chief Executive Officer

HERRIN

Community Unit School District No. 4

Dr. Mark G. Collins, Superintendent
mcollins@herrinunit.org
Website - www.herrinunit.org

500 North Tenth Street, Herrin, IL 62948

618-988-8024 • FAX 618-942-6998

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 happy to submit this formal letter of support to endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. As a longtime resident of the city of Herrin, I can attest to the facility's commitment to my community. Herrin Hospital has proudly stood out not only as a remarkable healthcare facility, but also as a business leader and good steward of resources.

Nearly 13 years ago, Maytag, the city's largest employer, sadly had to close its doors, leaving several hundred without jobs. Herrin Hospital quickly stepped up and assisted city and economic development leaders in retraining displaced workers. This joint endeavor resulted in new health care careers for many 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 physician recruitment efforts and the many surgical specialists that now offer services at my hometown hospital. Herrin Hospital has continued to grow in size, technology, and sophistication. I believe that with the dramatic increase in surgical cases over the last few years this expansion is direly needed.

It is without reservation that 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,



Mark G. Collins, Ph.D.
Superintendent

March 21, 2015

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

Re: Project #15-007 Herrin Hospital

I am submitting this letter to endorse Herrin Hospital's expansion proposal for additional surgical rooms. It has become necessary to accommodate the ever increasing number of surgical procedures performed each day.

As a resident of Herrin and past registered nurse at this facility and now a very active member of the hospital auxiliary I have seen many changes take place in this hospital. This hospital not only serves the citizens of Herrin but many of the surrounding cities. At present the hospital is the major employer in this community providing jobs for 900 people.

I have seen over the years how important recruitment has become to provide only the best to the many patients that enter these doors. In past years patients had to travel many miles to receive the care now given here at home. These vital additions have relieved patients and family members the additional expense and burden.

I am only one of the many volunteers of Herrin Hospital Auxiliary that feel strongly in support of this expansion. We are proud of our hospital, staff and administration. We only hope that the hospital will continue to expand and grow. I wholeheartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of Certificate of Need - Project #15-007.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Delaney
1305 Montebello Dr
Herrin, IL 62948

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,

In regard to the proposed modernization and expansion project at Herrin Hospital, I am enthusiastically endorsing that project. Living in Herrin most of my life, this facility has been committed to my community as a provider of healthcare, but also as a business leader and good steward.

In the past 15 years or so the city of Herrin and surrounding area has closed 4 manufacturing factories and several coal mines. This hospital has assisted city leaders and economic development leaders in retraining displaced workers.

Herrin Hospital provides critical and essential care to the residents of a seven-county area of southern Illinois, which has a high elderly and poor population. As a volunteer at this hospital for the last 12 years, I am grateful for the forward thinking of the hospital in their physician recruitment efforts and the breadth and depth of surgical specialists that now offer services at my hometown hospital. I know from the 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 consistent, advanced health care in southern Illinois.

Sincerely,



Marlyn S. Cairatti
605 South 7th Street
Herrin, IL 62948

NOVACOM

100 South Thirteenth Street • P.O. Box 578
Herrin, Illinois 62948
Telephone (618) 988-1661

March 23, 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

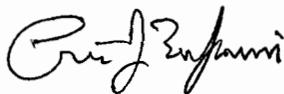
Dear Ms. Avery,

I am submitting this formal letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. I was born at Herrin Hospital 56 years ago. My wife (Peggy) of 32 years and I have raised four children in the city of Herrin. I own two businesses, that employ over a dozen families which rely on Herrin Hospital's services. 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, the 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 the former Maytag employees. Today, the hospital provides jobs to over 900 residents from across the region. I am 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. My wife and I love our home town hospital. Please seriously consider the great need for Herrin Hospital to continue to modernize and grow.

Sincerely,



Cris J Trapani
100 S 13th St
Herrin, IL 62948

Bondioli / Frost & Associates, LLC

104 East Walnut, PO Box 9, Herrin, IL 62948

Peter B. Bondioli, CLU, ChFC

peter@bondiolifrost.com

618-988-8080

Kevin D. Frost, CLU, ChFC

kevin@bondiolifrost.com

618-988-8508 fax

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

800-561-2240 toll free

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 pledging my support of Herrin Hospital's proposed expansion project. As an active resident and business owner in the city of Herrin, I can confirm this hospital's commitment to southern Illinois, not only as a healthcare provider, but also as a business leader and good steward to the surrounding areas.

Before I am a business owner and community leader, I am a husband and father. As such, I desire the best possible care for my wife and children. I am confident in the care available to them at Herrin Hospital. Growth, both architecturally and technologically, have been necessary over Herrin Hospital's 100 plus years of history to allow it to survive and thrive and will continue to be a necessity of its future.

Beyond healthcare of individuals and families, Herrin Hospital supports our locale youth through volunteer, job shadowing and scholarship opportunities. I have a young friend who is a freshman at Herrin High School and is aspiring to be a general surgeon. Herrin Hospital is her first opportunity of specialized learning. Her opportunity at future employment. The effect of expansion and modernization of the surgical facilities at Herrin Hospital goes beyond patient care and even beyond creation of jobs, it carries the future of our community.

I unequivocally approve the hospital's quest of the Certificate of Need to usher in another era of reliable, cutting-edge healthcare in southern Illinois.

Sincerely,



Kevin D. Frost, CLU, ChFC



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

March 23, 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 endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. The hospital's planned expansion of their operating rooms will help our health care programs at John A. Logan College have more clinical site opportunities. As an Administrator at John A. Logan College, I can attest to the facility's commitment to the community not only as a provider of healthcare, but also as a business leader and good steward.

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

Sincerely,

Brad McCormick
Vice President for Business Services
John A. Logan College
700 Logan College 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
WEB SITE: <http://www.jalc.edu>

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