

# United States Senate

March 23, 2015

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 30 2015**

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

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

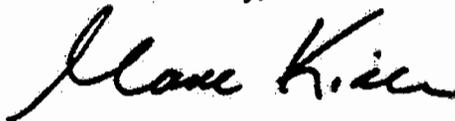
Dear Ms. Avery,

I write this letter to express my support for Herrin Hospital's grant application. Herrin Hospital is essential 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 to 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.

I appreciate your thoughtful and careful consideration for Herrin Hospital's application.

Sincerely,



Mark Kirk  
United States Senator

Fax 618-351-4918

March 18, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 replace and expand antiquated operating room space. It will also update and expand several ancillary areas to surgical services, including modernization of endoscopy and minor procedure rooms, and replacement and expansion of surgical prep and post-anesthesia recovery.

Herrin hospital has seen dramatic increased in surgical cases and hours over the last several years. With the successful recruitment of additional surgical specialists to meet the health care needs of our regional community, operating room space is well over capacity. As present, the existing operating rooms are small and with more technology and equipment and larger beds used today, the lack of space is a significant drawback.

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

Sincerely,



Michelle Jenkins MD  
Rea Clinic  
4241 Highway 14 West  
Christopher, IL 62822

Deborah L. Payne

828 Hilldale Avenue  
Herrin, IL 62948  
6185214219  
deborahpayne@jalc.edu

March 20, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Re: Project #15-007 Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

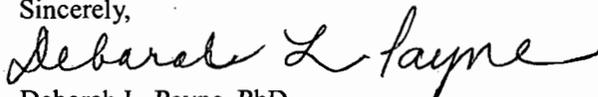
I am writing this letter in support of Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. As a former college administrator responsible for the training of healthcare workers, I can attest to the quality of healthcare delivered by Herrin Hospital. Our students are well trained in clinical experiences that prepare them to become competent, caring healthcare nurses and nursing assistants. As a lifelong resident of the city of Herrin, I can proudly attest to the hospital's commitment to the citizens of this community and the surrounding region. Excellent healthcare is provided for all who come for treatment of illnesses and accidents, rehabilitation, diagnostic services and surgery.

The hospital also distinguishes itself as a quality employer, business leader and involved community partner. Herrin Hospital's commitment to the community was highlighted when Maytag, the industrial manufacturing base of Herrin, closed its doors, leaving over 1000 unemployed. Herrin Hospital partnered with John A. Logan College and Southern Illinois University to retrain displaced workers for employment in the healthcare field. As a result of this collaboration, many people were able to realize their dream of a new career in healthcare. As a major employer in the region, the hospital currently provides jobs to over 900 residents.

As a citizen of Herrin, I take great pride in this facility and recognize the efforts of the hospital's strategic physician recruitment efforts and diversity of surgical specialists that now offer services. With eight new surgeons and recruitment of three more in process, the needs for expansion are well documented with increases in surgeries and surgical hours. This project will address those challenges by modernizing and expanding surgical facilities and pre and post surgery facilities.

Over its 100-year history, Herrin Hospital has served the region and has been attentive to the needs of a growing community. I enthusiastically endorse the hospital's request of the Certificate of Need to usher in another era of consistent, advanced health care in southern Illinois.

Sincerely,



Deborah L. Payne, PhD  
Herrin Chamber of Commerce Board Member  
Vice President for Instructional Services Emeritus, John A. Logan College

March 19, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 resident of the city of Zeigler, 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,

  
*Jean Connor*

Jean Connor 206 Wilcox  
Zeigler, Illinois 62999

March 19, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson  
Springfield, il. 62761

Re: Project #15-007 Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing to tell you that I am in full and complete support of Herrin Hospital's effort to modernize and expand our wonderful hospital facility. The value of Herrin Hospital to our city and area is immeasurable in my opinion. As the managing broker of my real estate firm, Property with TLC, I know first hand the importance of a hospital equipped with all the modern facilities needed in today's medical world. Investors and families moving into our area express great satisfaction that our town has such a complete and modern hospital. It is important that it continues to be up to date.

I strongly support the hospital's efforts in this project and overwhelmingly endorse its pursuit of a Certificate of Need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa L. Camarato', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Teresa L. Camarato  
201 N. Park Ave.  
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,

It has been brought to my attention that Herrin Hospital is in pursuit of the Certificate of Need for its proposed modernization and expansion project. As a native Herrinite, born in 1948 at the Herrin Hospital and watching two of my oldest sons born there as well, I am well aware of the history of this tremendous facility.

In my career as a businessman employing at one time over 30 people I am acutely aware of the need and benefit of modern and state of the art healthcare facility. Having served as President of the Herrin Chamber of Commerce and on its Economic Development Committee as well as presently serving as Vice President of the Herrin Civic Center Board of Directors, I have witnessed first hand the growth and advancement of Healthcare to our community through Herrin Hospital.

Herrin Hospital is a prize asset to our Community. It has a major economic impact providing over 900 jobs to our area. Having a sophisticated provider able to perform the multitude of surgeries and procedures necessary in today's medical world is an integral part of recruiting business that provide jobs to our area. As surgical specialties and procedures advance it is paramount that Herrin Hospital advance in step with the medical world in order to maintain its position as the most advanced hospital in our area.

Therefore, Ms. Avery, I strongly support the hospital in its pursuit of the Certificate of Need. I ask you and encourage you to also support this vital element of our community in its modernization and expansion. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Keith Camarato  
401 W. Monroe St.  
Herrin, Il. 62948



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# CENTERSTONE

March 24, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson (2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Centerstone has worked collaboratively with Southern Illinois Healthcare and Herrin Hospital for a number of years. Throughout our relationship, we have found SIH and Herrin Hospital to be deeply committed to our community, continually seeking ways to improve patient care and strengthen community healthcare. 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 endoscopy and minor procedure rooms, surgical prep and post-anesthesia recovery.

This request from SIH follows dramatic increases in surgical cases and surgical hours over the past four years. With SIH's successful recruitment of additional surgical specialists to meet the regional health needs of our community, operating room space is at a premium. At present, the existing operating rooms are extremely small by current clinical standards. With the proliferation of high-tech equipment and larger beds in use 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, 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.

Southern Illinois Healthcare and Herrin Hospital are essential partners with us in strengthening healthcare in Southern Illinois. I wholeheartedly endorse this proposal that builds on their history of providing quality healthcare in our community. Thank you for your consideration of this most worthwhile project.

With regards,

John G. Markley  
Chief Executive Officer  
Centerstone

March 19, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Zeigler, 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,



*George Connor*

George Connor  
206 Wilcox  
Zeigler, Illinois 62999

March 20, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator  
ILLINOIS Health Facilities Review Board  
525 West Jefferson (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Springfield, Illinois 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. (Project #15-007)

Due to Herrin Hospital's own success story, the usage of its facilities has steadily increased. In order to continue to meet the needs of our community, the operating room space needs to be enlarged. Currently the operating rooms are small in size and much of the high-tech equipment and larger beds employed today make for very cramped conditions. More operating rooms are needed as well as auxiliary space needs to facilitate surgical procedures.

Herrin Hospital continues to strive to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable patient populations in Illinois, the low-income and uninsured. As part of the over-all mission of Southern Illinois Healthcare, of which Herrin Hospital is a part, much of this care is provided at Herrin Hospital. We hope to continue to be an area that serves the needs of our residents—those who can afford care and those who cannot.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile and needed project (#15-007).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edwin H. Tresnak". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "E" and "T".

Edwin H. Tresnak, Ed D.  
Herrin High School Principal, Retired  
6 Dogwood Lane  
Herrin, Illinois 62948  
618-988-8664



March 23, 2015

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

Re: Project #15-007 Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am submitting this formal letter of support on behalf of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) to enthusiastically endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. As a long time partner of SIH, 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.

It has been our honor to work with SIH since 1997 to provide high quality physical rehabilitation services to individuals in the community following an illness or injury resulting in a disabling condition. This partnership was formed due to SIH identifying a significant gap in healthcare services, inpatient rehabilitation. Named the number one rehabilitation hospital by U.S. News & World Report, SIH sought out RIC to bring these services to the community now located at Herrin Hospital. Prior to this partnership individuals from the region had to travel over 100 miles going to St Louis, Mo or Evansville, In. leaving their family and friends during a difficult time in their recovery to receive this level of care. Together we have served thousands of patients with orthopedic and neurologic conditions and returned them successfully to their homes.

Through this partnership it has been our honor to witness SIH's commitment to the community. They are constantly striving to provide high quality care focused on getting the best possible outcome for their patients.

We wholeheartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to continue to ensure their community receives the most advanced and very best care.

Sincerely,

Peggy Kirk  
SVP, Chief Clinical operating Officer

March 25, 2015

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

Re: Project #15-007, Herrin Hospital

Ms. Avery,

I am writing to show my support for the planned expansion, by Herrin Hospital, to increase the delivery of their excellent health care services. While the expansion is for more surgical space, endoscopy and minor procedure rooms, procedure prep and recovery areas, it is also about the expansion of compassionate, skilled and timely care they provide and with which I've had the privilege to be treated.

In August of 2010, I chose to undergo a bariatric surgery procedure. I am so fortunate that SIH employs not one, but two, very skilled surgeons who specialize in weight loss procedures. At the age of 33, I was diagnosed with pseudotumor cerebri, a condition which is exacerbated by weight and without management could have robbed me of my eyesight. After years of diet and exercise without sustained success, surgical treatment became necessary. There are not enough words to express my gratitude to my surgeon, the nurses, lab techs, OR staff and every person involved in my care. I was treated so well from my very first examination through my surgical stay and through every post-operative visit and testing encounter since. Every person involved in my surgical preparation, procedure and recovery, treated my family and me as if we were their own! They all gave their best with compassion and sincere concern for a fellow human being.

Herrin Hospital has, over the last several years, built a successful bariatric program that has helped me to achieve a healthy weight and I'm no longer taking medication for my pseudotumor cerebri and my neuro ophthalmologist has declared my condition to be in remission. Having these services close to home has meant everything to me. The closest bariatric facility to my home is over two hours away. Knowing that I have access to "my team" any time I need them is a huge comfort. And I'm not the only one! As I understand, these surgeons have performed close to 2000 such procedures and I meet other patients, just like me, at support group meetings who have had their lives changed for the better by Herrin Hospital.

This kind of health care needs to continue, and more importantly, be expanded for the every growing need of Southern Illinois.

Southern Illinois is home to Southern Illinois University, several large employers and surrounded by smaller communities who look to Southern Illinois Healthcare as the leader in quality, compassion and excellence in medical care for much of the downstate area.

I could not endorse or support a hospital more, for needed health care expansion in Southern Illinois, than Herrin Hospital.

Thank you for your time.



Christa Chancey-McCoy  
208 North McLeansboro Street  
Benton, Illinois 62812



## SHAWNEE HEALTH SERVICE

*A Non-Profit Organization Serving Southern Illinois Since 1972*

109 California Street  
P.O. Box 577  
Carterville, IL 62918-0577  
Phone (618) 985-8221  
Fax (618) 985-6860

March 25, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Subject: Letter of Support for Project #15-007

Dear Ms. Avery,

Please accept this letter of support from Shawnee Health Service and Development Corporation for the Herrin Hospital Proposal (Project #15-007).

As a long time community partner of Herrin Hospital, Shawnee primarily serves low income and underserved populations in Williamson County and the surrounding region. As such, Shawnee wholeheartedly supports the proposal that will increase capacity for essential surgical, endoscopic, and minor procedures as proposed at Herrin Hospital.

With the addition of operating rooms, new Endoscopy and Procedure rooms, and the new Prep and Recovery areas, Herrin Hospital will be able to better serve the patients of both our organizations. Not only will facility changes better serve our patients, but their recent recruitment efforts expanded their staff by eight surgeons with recruitment efforts underway for three additional surgical specialists. With both the addition of the new space as well as the new physicians, Herrin Hospital will be able to meet the increasing demand for services.

Both Shawnee and Herrin Hospital attempt to meet the needs of the medically underserved population in our region. 91% of Shawnee's patients are at or below 200% of poverty. By the Board approving this project, it will allow low income, medically underserved patients to receive much needed healthcare services in our region. Herrin Hospital has demonstrated repeatedly and consistently that they are committed to providing services to all patients in our region to improve the standard of care that they receive, to improve their health outcomes, and ultimately to improve the quality of their lives.

On behalf of Shawnee Health Service and Development Corporation, Herrin Hospital, and our patients, I extend our support for the proposed expansion of Herrin Hospital and urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve this project.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Cooper  
Chief Financial Officer

Shawnee Health Service and Development Corporation  
109 California Street, PO Box 577, Carterville, IL 62918-0577, Phone: 618-985-8221

**Angela E. 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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,

  
Angela E. Kochan

March 23, 2015



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

Dear Ms. Avery,

Please accept this letter as my endorsement for Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion of surgical services. In my practice, my colleague and I perform complex laparoscopic surgeries, such as Nissen Fundoplication, colon resection and bariatric surgery (i.e., Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy.) These advanced procedures are comparable to what one would find in a major metropolitan or academic surgery center. In a region that struggles with outmigration, ours is a program that actually draws patients to southern Illinois from nearby states such as Kentucky and Missouri. Unprecedented demand for these and similar surgeries have created a significant need for increased surgical space and storage for the technology that makes these procedures possible. The rooms I operate in at Herrin Hospital are a mere 400 square feet, antiquated by today's standards.

Many of my patients come from the most impoverished areas of Illinois. In counties with high poverty and double-digit unemployment, costly and burdensome travel for care is simply not feasible. Additionally, my practice serves a substantial number of patients with Medicaid. Herrin Hospital, as one of three hospitals represented by Southern Illinois Healthcare, provides care to these and all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

Thank you for your consideration of this most worthwhile endeavor.

Sincerely,



Deepu Sudhakaran, MD

3.20.2015

Project #15-007

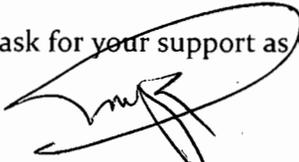


Please accept this letter of support regarding Herrin Hospital's proposed expansion and modernization of surgical services. As a board-certified bariatric and laparoscopic surgeon, I can attest to the substantial increase in volumes for these procedures in recent years. Ours is the only bariatric surgery program in Illinois south of Springfield. In addition, as the only recognized Bariatric Center of Excellence within a 90 mile radius, we not only attract patients from southern and central Illinois, but also from nearby states such as Missouri and Kentucky.

Today, bariatric surgery is documented to have a 98% cure rate for several co-morbidities, including diabetes and hypertension, which are most prevalent among patients in the hospital's service area. Of note, a significant number of my patients receive health insurance via the state's Medicaid program. Herrin Hospital's policy to take care of patients, regardless of their ability to pay, holds true among the hundreds of bariatric and laparoscopic surgical cases I have performed thus far during my 5 year tenure at this facility. As one would expect, modern-day bariatric and laparoscopic surgical procedures also require advanced technologies. The current operating room space at Herrin Hospital is antiquated at best; we simply lack the space to accommodate required equipment needs. An expansion of the physical surgical space is paramount, coupled with the need for additional storage space for such technology.

I respectfully ask for your support as well, Ms. Avery, is the most needed endeavor.

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: nahuja@sih.net / naresh\_ahuja@hotmail.com  
 Off: 618 988 6171 Fax: 618 351-6491

# SIH MEDICAL GROUP



March 26, 2015

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

Re: Project #15-007, Herrin Hospital.

Ms. Avery,

Thank you for considering Project #15-007, the expansion of the surgical infrastructure at Herrin Hospital. I have only been part of the Southern Illinois Healthcare Medical Group for six months, but I have already seen what a huge benefit this hospital provides to the people in this community. Medical and surgical needs have ballooned in this part of the state over the last few years, and with the expansion in coverage under the Affordable Care Act these needs will continue along that trajectory.

The proposed expansion will increase capacity so that more Southern Illinois patients can get the care they need locally and in a timely manner. It will attract high-quality jobs to the area and make the terrific care provided here even better. I ask that you please support this worthy investment!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard K. Buchman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard K. Buchman, MD  
Primary Care Physician

SIH Medical Group Internal Medicine

404 Lincoln Drive

Herrin IL 62948



**BRIDGEMARK**  
HEALTHCARE

March 19, 2015

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

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 30 2015**

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Project #15-007 Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am submitting this letter in support of Herrin Hospital's proposed project. From my somewhat unique vantage point – my organization operates three skilled nursing facilities in their market area – I can attest to Herrin Hospital's relevance and importance to our community. The project is necessary and vital to the region's well-being.

Herrin Hospital displays a strong commitment to regional healthcare. We experience this every day as our SNFs work hand in hand with the hospital to ensure excellent medical care for the patients we share. Their commitment to excellence in the hospital, extending to our partnerships with their medical staff in our own facilities, is integral to this care. It is our fervent hope that Herrin will be able to maintain and extend those capabilities for the benefit of the region's citizens.

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

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Miller, on behalf of:

Helia Healthcare of Energy, 210 E College St, Energy, IL 62933  
Frankfort Healthcare & Rehab, 2500 E St Louis St, West Frankfort IL 62896  
Helia Healthcare of Benton, 1310 Mark Franklin Rd, Benton IL 62812