

621 South Glenview Drive  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
March 25, 2015

RECEIVED

MAR 31 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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,

Is it possible for someone to change her future and expand her horizons while never leaving her hometown? I am able to answer this question simply, with one short word, *yes*. I am writing this letter in support and complete endorsement of Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. I believe that Herrin Hospital is a vital part of southern Illinois health care.

Five years ago I chose to have bariatric surgery at Herrin Hospital. That one simple decision changed my life. I had been considering bariatric surgery for six years before I decided, without reservation, to have surgery with Dr. Naresh Ahuja at Herrin Hospital. I researched bariatric surgery so I could make an intelligent and informed decision. I interviewed bariatric surgeons in St. Louis, MO and Paducah, KY. It wasn't until the efforts of Herrin Hospital to recruit Dr. Ahuja I knew I had found, without doubt, the best choice in doctors and facilities in which to have my life-changing surgery.

A number of factors helped make my surgery decision. The most import was my utmost trust in Dr. Ahuja. I was impressed with the network of support that his practice had in place to make sure that my surgery was going to provide long-term success. In preparation to my surgery I met with Dr. Ahuja, attended information seminars, support groups, education classes, a psychiatric appointment and nutrition consultations. Imagine how ecstatic I was do be able to do this locally!

With all the pre-surgery activities I was required to attend, I was pleased that I was able to complete all the steps prior to my surgery locally. I have never relished driving in urban areas, having to rely on family to drive me. I knew that I would be able attend all the pre-surgery meetings and consultations on my own, in a timely manner due to the fact that I was a short 18 miles from my home.

I was impressed with the entire Herrin Hospital staff. Their care assisted me with the success of my surgery. Since my surgery, I have maintained my weight loss. My health and life have improved exponentially. I am able to attend follow-up appointments and attend monthly support group meetings. I am able to accomplish this because the doctor and the hospital are local.

It is without reservation that I write this letter and endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to expand advanced health care in southern Illinois. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Anne Lougeay Barrett



3/20/15

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,

It is our pleasure to submit this formal letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. The Herrin Chamber of Commerce cannot adequately put into words the impact that Herrin Hospital has on our community, both as a hospital with the highest quality of care for our residents but also as a true community partner. They have been caring for the residents of our community for more than 100 years.

When our largest employer, Maytag, shuttered its doors, more than 1,000 employees lost their employment. They lost their livelihood and our community briefly lost hope. The beacon of light and hope during that turmoil was Herrin Hospital. They took in many displaced workers, providing them retraining, employment, and a foundation at a very troubling time. They partnered with local agencies to embrace the workers and showed our community that we would recover.

Today, Herrin Hospital employs more than 900 residents from across the region with family sustaining wages and benefits and is our largest Herrin employer. The economic impact of Herrin Hospital is tremendous. With each employee, the investment they make back into our community through grocery shopping, purchasing vehicles, or other goods and services then turns over 7 times in our community's economy. The economic impact of Herrin Hospital is vital to our community.

**SERVING BUSINESSES - SERVING HERRIN**

Phone: (618) 942-5163 • Fax: (618) 942-3301 Three South Park Avenue • Suite A • Herrin, IL 62948

[www.herrinillinois.com](http://www.herrinillinois.com)



Herrin Hospital's commitment to excellence extends to their recruitment efforts that have garnered our community top notch physicians and surgeons. In recent years, it has become apparent that an expansion is needed. The number of surgeries performed has increased because our hospital is dedicated to actively recruiting top surgeons that are performing cutting edge surgeries. Years ago, our residents had to travel up to 250 miles to have these surgeries. Now our residents can get those same cutting edge surgeries performed by top surgeons right here at Herrin Hospital, surrounded by the love and support of their own community.

We wholeheartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to usher in another era of consistent, advanced health care in southern Illinois. We see the commitment and care that Herrin Hospital provides in our community every single day. We could not be more proud to support our community partner in their effort to expand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liz Lively".

Liz Lively

Executive Director  
Herrin Chamber of Commerce  
3 South Park Avenue  
Herrin, IL 62948  
618-942-5163

A large, stylized graphic of the number "4" composed of several overlapping, tilted rectangular shapes, positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.

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# Prairie Cardiovascular

## *The Doctors of Prairie*

Marc E. Shelton, M.D.  
President

Frank L. Mikeli, M.D.  
Board Chairman

**Springfield** – (217) 788-0706  
Prairie Heart Institute  
at St. John's Hospital  
Memorial Medical Center

Richard E. Katholi, M.D.  
Robert C. Woodruff, M.D.  
Brian D. Miller, M.D.  
Kriegh P. Moulton, M.D.  
Gregory J. Mishkel, M.D.  
Charles L. Lucore, M.D.  
Richard M. Holloway, M.D.  
Krishna J. Rocha-Singh, M.D.  
Robert V. Trask, M.D.  
Wilfred Lam, M.D.  
Stephen A. Mayer, M.D.  
Mark S. Steen, M.D.  
Charles W. Karpen, M.D.  
Stephen H. Jennison, M.D.  
Vincent P. Zuck, M.D.  
John B. Gill, M.D.  
Nasar Nallamothu, M.D.  
Frank V. Aguirre, M.D.  
Mansura Ghani, M.D.  
James C. Mullin, M.D.  
Holly Novak, M.D.  
Jeffrey A. Goldstein, M.D.  
Nilash J. Goswami, M.D.  
Michael P. Kelley, M.D.  
Tony J. DeMartini, M.D.  
Ziad F. Issa, M.D.  
Raghu Kolluri, M.D.  
Gabor F. Matos, M.D.  
Jeffrey Christy, M.D.  
Madhu Dukkkipati, M.D.  
Bernard Lim, M.D.  
Daniel M. Couri, M.D.  
Alan M. Nadour, M.D.

**Decatur** – (217) 422-6100  
Prairie Heart Institute  
at St. Mary's Hospital  
Decatur Memorial Hospital

Kris Patel, M.D.  
Manohar Kola, M.D.  
Luis J. Caceres, M.D.  
Vijay P. Roy, M.D.  
Theodore Addai, M.D.

**Effingham** – (217) 342-3700  
St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital  
Amir N. Cheema, M.D.

**Carbondale** – (618) 529-4455  
Memorial Hospital  
Herrin Clinic

Cesar E. Coello, M.D.  
Maria T. Falcone, M.D.  
Son P. Le, M.D.  
Raja C. Maddipati, M.D.  
Varadendra B. Pancharukhi, M.D.  
Raed Al-Dallow, M.D.  
Nabil Al-Sharif, M.D.  
Prasanna Venkatesh Kumar, M.D.

**Streator** – (815) 672-8741  
Streator Clinic

Riyaz Nomani, M.D.

James T. Dove, M.D.  
President Emeritus

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,

My name is Cesar Coello. I am a cardiologist who has practiced in Southern Illinois since 1999. Since the beginning of my practice, I have spent a fair amount of time in the city of Herrin and serviced Herrin Hospital for cardiovascular services. In my experience I have seen a remarkable growth of the hospital and services that this institution provides for the community. The community has a large proportion of elderly patients in frequent need of care. In the past, the dominant option for advanced care included being transferred to distant hospitals in St. Louis or Cape Girardeau Missouri, as well as Springfield Illinois, Paducah or Evansville Indiana. The patients and families have a great hardship dealing with problems of caring for the most ill family members in such distant places. Gradually we have seen more of those types of care being provided at Herrin Hospital. This has imposed greater demand from the facility and a need for expansion and updating of its infrastructure.

Due to the increase in demand of surgical services, it has been more difficult to plan certain procedures from my specialty, including cardioversions that require special anesthesia or sedation and even implantation of pacemakers or other implantable devices. Some of these procedures still have to be done at other facilities, which interferes with the fluent care that this community needs. I applaud the decision for the hospital administration to address these issues and make an investment in updating their infrastructure and especially the surgical services. I like to support that effort which is in direct benefit of the community and specifically of patients that receive care at this institution.

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 much needed surgical specialists to meet the underserved communities of this part of Southern Illinois, the demand for increased infrastructure is very intense. Currently, the existing operating



# Prairie Cardiovascular

*The Doctors of Prairie*

**Springfield** – (217) 788-0706

Richard E. Katholi, M.D.  
Robert C. Woodruff, M.D.  
Brian D. Miller, M.D.  
Kriegh P. Moulton, M.D.  
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Krishna J. Rocha-Singh, M.D.  
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Marc E. Shelton, M.D.  
Stephen A. Mayer, M.D.  
Mark S. Steen, M.D.  
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Vincent P. Zuck, M.D.  
John B. Gill, M.D.  
Nasar Nallamothu, M.D.  
Frank V. Aguirre, M.D.  
Mansura Ghani, M.D.  
James C. Mullin, M.D.  
Holly Novak, M.D.  
Jeffrey A. Goldstein, M.D.  
Nilesh J. Goswami, M.D.  
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Ziad F. Issa, M.D.  
Gebor F. Matos, M.D.  
Jeffrey Christy, M.D.  
Madhu Dukkupati, M.D.  
Bernard Lim, M.D.  
Shailesh Nandish, M.D.  
Roberto Pecheco, M.D.  
Mark R. Stampahl, M.D.  
Manjula Burri, M.D.  
Kartik Mani, M.D.

**Decatur** – (217) 422-6100

Kris Patel, M.D.  
Manohar Kola, M.D.  
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Jeanne Marie Kairouz, M.D.

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Amir N. Cheema, M.D.  
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Raed Al-Dallow, M.D.  
Nabil Al-Sharif, M.D.  
Prasanna Venkatesh Kumar, M.D.  
Firas Al Badarin, M.D.  
Daniel Correa de Sa, M.D.

**Streator** – (815) 672-8741

Riyaz Nomani, M.D.

**Belleville** – (618) 233-6044

Anil Shah, M.D.  
Henry Mattis, M.D.  
Roop Lal, M.D.  
David Wallace, M.D.  
Regina Chiu, M.D.  
Shiyam Satwani, M.D.  
Pavan K. Gupta, M.D.  
Girish Mood, M.D.

**Mattoon** – (217) 238-4960

Amit S. Dande, M.D.  
Thomas Cahill, M.D.

rooms are too small to allow the proper utilization of updated equipment that is needed for the procedures performed at Herrin Hospital.

The proposed modernization and expansion will not only reduce outmigration to nearby states for advance 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.

I would like to thank you for your consideration in reviewing the needs for approval of the surgical service expansion and modernization at Herrin Hospital. I fully support this endeavor and I strongly feel that the community of Herrin and Williamson county, as well as the neighboring counties like Franklin county in particular where a practice will appreciate having accessibility to adequate health care in this rural environment.

Sincerely,

Cesar Coello M.D.  
409 West Oak Street  
Carbondale, IL 62901

# SIH MEDICAL GROUP

at Logan Primary Care



502 W St. Louis Street  
West Frankfort, IL 62896  
T 618.937.3400

03/24/2014

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 would like to introduce myself. My name is Dennon Davis, MD. I am a family practice provider with SIH Medical Group, Logan Primary Care West Frankfort. I have been practicing in West Frankfort and admitting patients to Herrin Hospital since 1999.

Over the past 16 years, I have personally witnessed tremendous growth in surgical services at Herrin Hospital. I have referred numerous patients to the surgeons at Herrin and I am confident in their abilities in their areas of expertise. Herrin Hospitals' ability to treat patients locally is a blessing to our many low-income and uninsured patients. It provides my patients with the ability to have needed procedures without the financial burden of traveling many additional miles for care.

Please accept my letter of support for the proposed modernization and expansion of surgical services at Herrin Hospital. This expansion will greatly benefit my patients. Our patients are very trust worthy of Herrin Hospital and do not wish to travel far from family for these services so their procedures are delayed due to the demand to have procedures at this hospital.

Thank you for your consideration of this most worthwhile project.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennon Davis MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'M'.

Dennon Davis, MD  
502 West St. Louis St  
West Frankfort, IL 62896

# SIH MEDICAL GROUP

at Logan Primary Care



405 Rushing Drive  
Herrin, IL 62948  
T 618.993.3300

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 a primary care physician specializing in family practice. I have currently served in the Herrin community since 1983, and I currently work for Southern Illinois Medical Group. Almost 100% of my patients are admitted at the Herrin Hospital, and their surgical needs are cared for by the Herrin Hospital staff surgeons. I find that almost 100% of their surgical needs can be cared for at the Herrin Hospital in a surgical department.

With our current expansion in rural health care, we have found an overwhelming demand on the surgical services. This demand has caused delayed treatment and lengthy waits for the patients. Although the facilities have been adequate, the proposed modernization and expansion will allow improved quality of care and allow the hospital to attract future generations of quality surgeons and physicians.

Thank you for your consideration of this much needed project.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Parks, MD  
405 Rushing Drive  
Herrin, IL 62948



March 17, 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,

On behalf of Hospice of Southern Illinois, Inc., I am submitting this formal letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. As a provider of end-of-life care to not only Herrin but also the communities surrounding Herrin, we 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.

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. Hospice of Southern Illinois, Inc. also is especially grateful the hospital's forward-thinking physician recruitment efforts and the breadth and depth of surgical specialists that now offer services at Herrin Hospital. Over its 100-year history, Herrin Hospital has grown in size and sophistication; and from the dramatic increase in surgical cases over the last few years, this modernization and expansion is needed.

Herrin Hospital continues to be recognized for its commitment to providing exceptional health care and compassionate service to patients including end-of-life care. Hospice of Southern Illinois, Inc. wholeheartedly endorses the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to usher in another era of consistent, advanced health care in southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Rebecca J. Wisdom, LCSW  
President and CEO

Jennifer Vinyard  
806 State Street  
Eldorado, IL 62930

March 25, 2014

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

Re: Project #15-007 Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

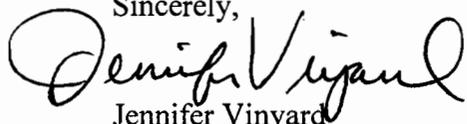
I am submitting this formal letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. As a patient of Dr. Ahuja and New Life Weight Loss Center, I am so thankful to have had this service close to home here in Southern Illinois. Having been able to have my bariatric procedure here locally has meant so much and to be able to have my follow up care is a blessing.

My care while I was a patient at Herrin Hospital was fantastic!! The entire surgical team was so caring and made me and my family, feel so comfortable during my stay at the hospital. I had my surgery there with Dr. Ahuja and to date I have lost 145 lbs. We are so blessed to have this kind of service here in our small Southern Illinois community. I know many people who have had bariatric surgery and for their pre-op care, post-op care, and lifetime care they are either driving to St. Louis or Nashville, TN over 2 hours away.

I love that for support groups, lab work, and follow up with my surgeon I can drive 15mins away for this care. Dr. Ahuja and his surgical team have shown me so much compassionate care during my surgery as well as the aftercare during my weight loss journey.

I wholeheartedly endorse the Herrin Hospital's pursuit of the Certification of Need to usher in another era of consistent, advance health care in Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Vinyard  
New Life Weight Loss Patient  
806 State Street



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,

I am submitting this letter as an endorsement of my support to Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. As a business leader in the city of Herrin and a professional in southern Illinois, I can attest to the facility's commitment to my community not only as provider of healthcare, but also as a business filled with a sense of integrity, good leadership, core values and excellent stewardship.

I have personally seen this hospital grow over the last 50 years. My mother worked as a nurse on midnight shift at Herrin Hospital when I was a child. Herrin Hospital was my first job as a young adult in early '70's. My first child, Michael, was born at this hospital. I trust the care of my family and my healthcare to this hospital.

As Herrin Chamber of Commerce President I understand the importance of this letter of support in Herrin Hospital's quest to secure state approval for a \$23.7 million modernization and expansion. In its 100-year history, Herrin Hospital has always strived to stay abreast of medical and technological advancements to provide appropriate care for southern Illinois patients. This proposed project involves construction of a one-story addition to meet current and future demand for essential surgical, endoscopic and minor procedures to provide the continued care of the patients in the city of Herrin.

Herrin Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated with the City of Herrin the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "Our Hospital" and appreciate Herrin Hospital for their commitment to make a difference in their community.

Sincerely,

Deborah Hogg  
President, Board of Directors  
Herrin Chamber of Commerce  
3 Park Ave  
Herrin, IL 62948

**Robert L. Mees, Ph.D.**  
**1103 Ivey Lane**  
**Carterville, IL 62918**

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: Project #15-007 Herrin Hospital

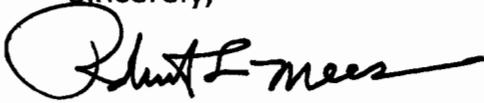
Dear Ms. Avery:

I am submitting this formal letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. This project is very important to our area especially to meet the demands for surgery cases which have increased by 21% since 2010. I can attest to the facility's commitment to our community not only as a provider of healthcare, but also as a business leader and good steward for all of southern Illinois.

For example, when Herrin'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 the 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 our hometown hospital. Over its 100-year history, "our 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 greatly 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Mees". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular initial "R" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Robert L. Mees, Ph.D.  
President Emeritus  
John A. Logan College



March 20, 2015

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

Re: Project #15-007 Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms Avery,

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for the proposed expansion and modernization for Herrin Hospital, project number 15-007. Many families have been in need of medical care over the years and the current facility has met those needs; however, with the underserved, low-income, uninsured and vulnerable populations increasing, the facility must evolve to ensure a continuation of caring for all Southern Illinois residents.

Much like Hospice of Southern Illinois, Herrin Hospital and the SIH network serves patients regardless of their ability to pay for the needed services. We share a common goal of our first priority being the patient. The proposed project will address the patient timelier with an increased number of surgical and procedure suites and; in addition, will allow for more efficiently addressing the aspects of pre and post procedure experience. The hospital administration has been proactive in the recruitment of surgeons resulting in the ability to address a wide range of surgical needs.

Since Herrin Hospital's inception the facility and care have become more sophisticated. This expansion is necessary to continue on the path of medical advancement in rural Southern Illinois. Without hesitation I endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to continue to address the health and well-being of those living in Herrin and the surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lee  
Development Director  
204 Halfway Rd  
Marion, Illinois 62959

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,

This letter is to express my support for Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. As a co-owner of multiple businesses within the city of Herrin for the past 20 years, I am proud to be a part of a community in which our local hospital is so committed to the people of Herrin and of Southern Illinois. Herrin Hospital has an excellent reputation not only for providing superior healthcare, but also for investing time and resources into the betterment of our region.

As an executive member of Herrin's Chamber of Commerce I can attest that Herrin Hospital is extremely active in assisting the city in our constant pursuit of economic development and improving the lives of the people of the city of Herrin. Herrin Hospital administrators serve on committees and work side by side with civic leaders to make Herrin, IL a place that attracts new businesses and residents. Not only does the hospital provide over 900 jobs to our area, they are consistently on the forefront of community events like our very popular "Pink Out" to raise awareness for breast cancer. The hospital also helps support The Chamber's Annual Dinner that recognizes businesses and individuals for significant contributions to Herrin during the previous year.

On a personal note, the main reason my family lives in Southern Illinois and owns businesses in Herrin, IL is due to Herrin Hospital. The hospital has always had a very active physician recruitment plan which attracts a wide range of specialties to our area. The physician recruitment plan brought my husband, who is a dermatological surgeon to Herrin in 1996 and his practice has grown to employ 8 providers and sees over 40,000 patients a year. More recently, Herrin Hospital's recruitment plan has resulted in the addition of eight new surgeons and an over 20% increase in surgical cases. This increase in surgical cases over the last few years clearly supports the need for modernization and expansion.

I enthusiastically support Herrin Hospital's efforts to modernize and expand in order to meet the growing need for surgical care in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry M. Vesciglio, PhD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'B'.

Barry M. Vesciglio, PhD  
220 North Park Avenue  
Herrin, IL 62948

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,

As the C.E.O. of the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment board and the Executive Director of the Connect SI Foundation, Inc., I am submitting this formal letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. As a lifelong resident 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.

In my role as the coordinator of the public workforce system, I have witnessed Herrin Hospital's care of the community. For example, when the city's largest employer, Maytag, closed its doors nearly 13 years ago, Herrin Hospital assisted city and economic development leaders in retraining displaced workers. Our hospital led the charge for our "silver ribbon" campaign throughout the town and region to remind everyone that change has a "silver lining." 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 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. As a recent patient at Herrin Hospital, I can attest that its modernization has not impacted its mission of customer service and excellent patient care.

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,



Kathy Lively  
1101 N. 4th  
Herrin, IL 62948



# Northwestern Mutual

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

**Peter B. Bondioli** CLU®, ChFC®  
Financial Representative

104 E Walnut St  
PO Box 9  
Herrin, IL 62948  
618 988 8080 office  
618 988 8508 fax  
800 561 2240 toll free  
peter.bondioli@nm.com  
peterbondioli.nm.com

RE: Project # 15-007 Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am a past president of the Herrin Chamber of Commerce and from that respect I understand the importance of Herrin Hospital as an "economic engine" that has kept our community "alive economically". The hospital is our community's largest industry, but more importantly the medical care provided has enriched hundreds or thousands of lives. I am also a past Trustee of Southern Illinois Healthcare from 1986-1994. The last two years of my term I served as Chair of the SIH Board. In my years as Chair I dreamt and shared with our then CEO (Jack Buckley) that I wanted people and families to desire and actually demand to be taken to Herrin Hospital when their loved ones needed care. Based on personal experience as well as ER visits and admission numbers I have seen - I believe my dream has come true. Herrin Hospital is a "**Center of Excellence**" in our rural area of southern Illinois!

I have been amazed at the number of hospital based physicians and other physicians that need to have a hospital available to practice that have been recruited to our area. These physicians come to practice only because Herrin Hospital offers the ancillary services and OR's that they desire and need to practice their specialty. In this day and age if the facility is not modern and if flexibility of scheduling procedures is not easy – those physicians will go elsewhere. Generally "elsewhere" (because of the economic climate and weather climate) is outside of the state of Illinois. **I do support and endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization/expansion plan.**

I very much respect the work your Board does. I know that your Board members attend several meetings a year and have much reading to do as preparation for the meetings. Also, given the fact that Board members are not compensated for their work I very much admire each individual's commitment to providing improve healthcare to regions of the state of Illinois by reviewing (and in the case of Herrin Hospital hopefully approving the Certificate of Need).

Sincerely,

Peter B. Bondioli, CLU, ChFC (Personal Residence: 1501 S. 17<sup>th</sup>., Herrin, IL

March 23, 2015

Frank Colombo  
212 E. Madison Street  
Herrin, IL 62948

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

RE: Project # 15-007

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing this letter to express my full support to the proposed expansion to the Herrin Hospital. The Hospital has become one of the main economic engines in our community employing over 900 people and creating a number of businesses that provide support services for our health care system.

The primary endorsement for this project, however is the value it creates as a health care provider to our community as well as a number of surrounding communities that need and use this facility. We are no longer required to travel to St. Louis, Springfield or Chicago to receive first class medical care for the majority of our health care needs.

We need this Hospital and proposed expansion to serve our current and future needs.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Colombo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Frank Colombo



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 (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 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>

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

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.

Over the past few years, my family has experienced the excellent care that Herrin Hospital provides, especially in the stressful situations that include surgery. We have been extremely pleased with the care we have received, but also know that with an increase in surgical cases in the area and the need for more physicians, the system will need to expand in order to continue to provide the quality of care that has been the hallmark of Herrin Hospital. Because of the growth of the hospital, the reputation it has and the advancement in technology that is needed to continue to provide stellar care, this expansion is necessary.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Herman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Jane Herman OD  
115 W. Brewster Rd  
Herrin, IL 62948

March 26, 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 SIH Herrin Hospital, Herrin Illinois

Ms. Avery,

On behalf of Herrin Hospital, I am writing this letter to show my support for the planned modernization and expansion of surgical services. The expansion of Herrin Hospital will also expand the great medical staff that is currently available.

On January 7, 2009, I was in a near fatal car accident in Indianapolis, Indiana. The accident left me in a coma for 6 weeks during which time I suffered 3 strokes. My injuries included traumatic brain injury, 6 broken ribs, broken arm, and a collapsed lung. I was not expected to live. My family was starting to make arrangements to take me off of life support when I miraculously came out of the coma. Once I was stable enough to be transferred, I was brought to Herrin Hospital Acute Rehab. It was there that I was given the care to get back a quality of life that I am blessed to have. At 38 years old, I had to relearn how to walk, talk, eat and do the basics of everyday life including but not limited to bathing, and getting dressed. The care that I had while being a patient in Herrin Hospital for 3 months is priceless! It's hard to find the words to describe how compassionate, patient, and attentive my medical/rehab team was. After being released from the hospital, I received 9 months of Outpatient Rehabilitation at Herrin Hospital. It was just as amazing as my in-patient care. Because of the care I received at Herrin Hospital, I can now walk, talk and do things that the doctors in Indianapolis said I would never be able to do again.

I feel very fortunate to have had such fabulous care in my hometown of Herrin. As I am not able to work, I wanted to do something for the community that helped me in my time of need so I chose to volunteer at Herrin Hospital. I am very proud and feel very privileged to do so.

It is because of the care that I have personally received that I am confident that the expansion of this facility will be a great asset to Southern Illinois.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carla Shasteen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carla Shasteen

1304 East Stotlar

Herrin, Il. 62948

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 SIH Herrin Hospital, Herrin Illinois

Ms. Avery,

On behalf of Herrin Hospital, I am writing this letter to show my support for the planned modernization and expansion of surgical services. The expansion of Herrin Hospital will fill a need in Southern Illinois for patients as well as assisting in employment in our area.

My daughter was in an accident that left her in a coma for 6 weeks. The doctors said she would not live but if by the slim chance she did, she would be in a vegetable-like state. After she woke from the coma, she couldn't sit up by herself needless to say walk, or talk. The left side of her body was damaged after she had 3 strokes due to the car accident. We made arrangements to have her transferred to our hometown of Herrin, Illinois for rehabilitation. It was at Herrin Hospital that my daughter was shown the care that it takes to bring someone back from near death. After she was transferred, she received the most amazing rehab that I have ever seen. The staff was very patient with her while teaching her how to walk, talk and use her left side, which was not easy since she suffered traumatic brain injury. The quality of care as well as the Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy that my daughter received needs to not only continue, but be expanded on in Southern Illinois.

I cannot put into words how grateful I am to have this type of care available in Herrin. It is with great pride that I support Herrin Hospital and highly recommend the planned modernization and expansion of surgical services.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delores Arnsmeier".

Delores Arnsmeier

1304 East Stotlar

Herrin, Il. 62948

Ralph Brandon, Pastor  
Phone: 618-985-4011

1025 South Division Street  
Carterville, Il 62918

**Christian Covenant Fellowship**

March 26, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery, Adm.

Illinois Health Facilities and Service 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 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. Herrin Hospital has consistently grown through service to our community.

As a member of our faith community, I whole heartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of Certificate of Need.

Sincerely,



Ralph Brandon

13954 Allen Road

Carterville, Il 62918

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

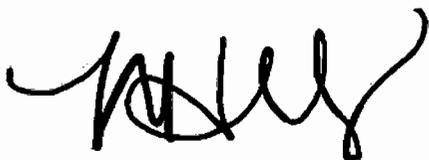
Dear Ms. Avery,

I am submitting this formal letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. As a 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.

My husband and I had our first child in 2011. Before his first birthday it was recommended by our pediatrician our son undergo a minor surgery. The pediatrician originally referred us to Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, but because of our faith and confidence in our local hospital and surgical staff we chose Dr. R. Lawrence Hatchett and the Herrin Hospital for our son's procedure. The Herrin Hospital, Dr. Hatchett, and the staff exceeded all of our expectations. Each and every one of them treated our son as if he was their own. I've attached a photo of our son at the hospital waiting to be taken into surgery. The Herrin Hospital needs more space to care for more children like my son.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nina Sprehe Helleny', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Nina Helleny

Nina Sprehe Helleny  
603 Heritage Drive  
Herrin, IL 62948

