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MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 15, 2015

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

RE: MercyRockford Health System
Projects 15-038, 15-039, and 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please post the enclosed letters as letters of support for the three above-referenced projects.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jacob M. Axel
President

enclosure

675 North Court, Suite 210
Palatine, Illinois 60067

Phone (847) 776-7101
Fax (847) 776-7004

Katie Zimmerman
6151 Valley Knoll Drive
Rockford, IL 61109

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

RE: Support for MercyRockford Health System – Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 115-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

I'm writing to express my personal support for the new campus proposal for Rockford Memorial Hospital. I wanted to share my personal experience about the expert care we received during the most frightening time in our lives, in hopes that it will help you cast a vote in support of the project as well.

My son Kamden started running a fever in October of 2013. We didn't think much of it at first, and neither did his pediatrician, but after a few days, it wouldn't go down even after taking Tylenol and Ibuprofen. Kamden also got a crazy looking rash, and became severely lethargic. It was then that I knew this wasn't just a "virus" and in the middle of the night, my husband and I rushed him in to the emergency room. It was there we were told that my son, who was only 2 years old at the time, had Kawasaki Disease. If you've never heard of it, you are not alone. It is extremely rare, and if it's not diagnosed and treated within the first 10 days of getting sick, the disease can be deadly. Kawasaki attacks your small and medium capillaries, and that it why it's so important that it be treated right away, so it doesn't damage the heart. The emergency room we went to referred us to Rockford Memorial for treatment because it was the only hospital in the region that knew how to treat people with Kawasaki Disease.

Kamden spent an entire week in the hospital while undergoing treatment for Kawasaki. He had to undergo not one, but two rounds of intravenous immunoglobulin or IVIG treatment. Doctors administer the medicine intravenously, over a 12 hour period. When I say it was a horrifying experience, that's putting it lightly. My husband and I were so afraid we would lose our little man. Finally after the second round of the IVIG, my son's fever broke and he started feeling better. The care we received at RMH was second to none. I cannot tell you how scared we were, but the doctors and nurses at RMH in the pediatric unit were so patient, loving and reassuring that our little guy was going to pull through this and be okay. It was so nice to be able to have his treatment close to home and not have to travel to Chicago or Madison. We live; work and play here, and it would have been an even more difficult experience to deal with if we would have had to get Kam's treatments out of town. Not only would we have to endure the stress of the illness, but we would have had to find somewhere to stay, someone to watch out pets, check on our house and who knows what else while Kam was sick. My family fully supports the new campus propsoal because we know it's needed not just for the people who live in Rockford, but for

those who are sick from all over the region. Having access to the highest quality health care is something we all deserve, without having to travel out of town to receive it. I also feel that as a leader in pediatric care for the region that RMH deserves more modern facilities that are better designed for the future of medicine.

Sincerely,

Katie M. Zimmerman

Katie Zimmerman

Mardelle Kennay
7010 S Daysville Rd.
Oregon, IL 61061

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

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System-- Project Numbers: 15-038,15-039,15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

In October of 2014 I was diagnosed with breast cancer. The plan suggested by the medical team was surgery to remove the lump, followed by 30 radiaiton treatments. I had surgery on November 12, radiation began in January at the Cancer Center located in Rockford Memorial, and I am happy to report that I am doing well.

I am writing to support maintaining the West Side Campus, particularly the Cancer Center. After having surgery, I was given the option of receiving radiation at a facility closer to me. I chose to stay at Rockford Memorial for two reasons: the medical staff I had met with, and because I would be the first patient to receive treatments from the newly installed linear accelerator, which would allow me to receive the most effective treatment. Those of us who live in rural areas are accustomed to traveling some distance to meet with specialists, but hope that travel time can be kept to a minimum. Extended travel time is a hardship for patients and families physically, financially, and emotionally, and I appreciated that the Cancer Center, less than an hour away, had the latest equipment and highly trained staff available to me. I was also told that many patients schedule their radiation treatments either during their lunch hour or immediately after work. This convenience causes minimal disruption in the work and/or family schedule. It would not be possible if the provider were farther away. I am pleased that a state-of-the art Cancer Center will continue to treat patients at the Rockton Avenue location, and that all primary care and specialty physicians currently providing care there will continue to provide services.

Sincerely,
Mardelle Kennay
Mardelle Kennay

Autumn Stivers
4904 Gregwood Place
Rockford, IL 61108

8 September 2015

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

Re: Support for Mercy Rockford Health System – Project Numbers 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

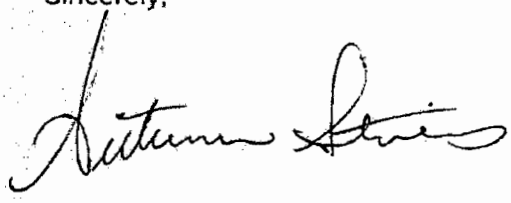
Dear Ms. Avery:

I recently delivered my second son at Rockford Memorial Hospital in July of this year. I had the most wonderful experience. Throughout my pregnancy I saw the doctors and midwives at maternal fetal medicine. They did an amazing job managing my care. I was induced early with this pregnancy and was nervous that this delivery would be like my last. Every nurse I had throughout my stay helped ease my mind and make me comfortable. Every staff member I encountered was there to ensure the safe entry of my son into this world.

I sincerely support the plan for the new facilities.

The amazing nurses, doctors and midwives who work within the Health System deserve to have the most modern facility and equipment to care for their patients in the best way they possibly can. Also, with a location off I-90, it will increase accessibility for the 15 counties to which the hospital provides high risk services to pregnant patients.

Sincerely,



Autumn Stivers

September 4, 2015

Barbara Fay
420 E. Barbara
Mt. Morris, IL 61054

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

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This is my second time as a cancer patient at Rockford Memorial Hospital. I'm currently undergoing radiation treatment for breast cancer, just like I did eight years ago. I've seen a big difference in the Cancer Center since my last treatment. The radiation treatment area is much more private and modern. Treatment times with the new machine are much faster. Overall all it is a much nicer experience.

One thing that has remained the same is the amazing staff. They are always friendly and helpful. They greet you with a smile. They have people at the door to help you with a wheelchair and get you to and from your car. I'm glad they now have a nicer area to go along with the great staff.

I'm pleased to hear that the hospital is going to continue to offer its Cancer Center service on Rockton Avenue. Driving from Mt. Morris is a really long distance. It's nice not to have to drive through town to get to the Cancer Center. Some people have a hard time traveling, plus it costs more in gas and the wear on your tires and car when you have to make the trip daily. Weather can also be a big factor when you drive through town. It's such a quality Cancer Center, I'm glad they are committed to keeping it on the west side of Rockford. I ask you to please approve the hospital's plan.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Fay

Barbara Fay

KENNETH
WATSON
1519 BURTON ST.
ROCKFORD IL. 61103

MS. COURTNEY AVERY
ADMINISTRATOR
ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES
AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD
525 WEST JEFFERSON
SPRINGFIELD, IL. 62761

Dear Ms. Avery,

I was diagnosed with throat cancer this summer. I am receiving treatments using the linear accelerator. My health has improved. The linear accelerator is a vital part of the cancer center. I was born in Rockford Memorial Hospital. I also been a life long resident of Rockford's west side. RMH had been an important part of the west side.

Sincerely

Ken Watson