

FRANCIS E. O'DONNELL, JR., M.D.

709 THE HAMPTONS LANE
TOWN & COUNTRY, MISSOURI 63017

TEL (314) 579-9725
FAX (314) 434-7030

April 12, 2011

RECEIVED

APR 15 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dale Galassie, Chair

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

2nd Floor

525 West Jefferson Street

Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Certificate of Exemption No. E-001-11, Surgery Center of Southern Illinois

Dear Sir,

This is a letter of support in favor of the above referenced exemption request. I have known Mr. Ron Osman for over 30 years. I first met Ron while I was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the St Louis University School of Medicine. From the start, I have admired Ron's integrity and his ethics. I valued his advice about the importance of compliance with healthcare law, and later as a Trustee at St Louis University, I have supported the development of the Law School's premier program in the country on healthcare law.

Ron has worked extremely hard to identify, stop, and punish healthcare fraud by insurers and providers. Many times this fraud has involved substandard care that has inflicted irreparable harm on patients. He has helped to recover

hundreds of millions of dollars for taxpayers, and he has protected the welfare of patients by stopping unethical practitioners from continuing to prey on them.

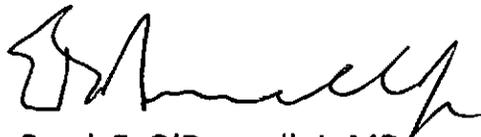
Ron and I have continued our association over the years as we co-invested in the development of revolutionary healthcare technologies initially developed at leading medical institutions such as the Mayo Clinic, Stanford University, University of Illinois, Johns Hopkins University, and the National Cancer Institute. Ron has personally invested over \$13,000,000 and has loaned millions more supporting the development of these revolutionary technologies which include cures for otherwise incurable chronic and often lethal diseases. More specifically, Ron has supported with his personal money as well as his personal time and effort the following breakthroughs: an anti-cancer vaccine for lymphoma to prevent a recurrence of this otherwise lethal lymphatic cancer, potential cures for debilitating autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis, a cure for sickle cell anemia, and a technology for the elimination of transplant rejection that has dramatically expanded the ability to do bone marrow transplants. The companies developing these technologies, such as Hopkins Capital Group, Accentia Biopharmaceuticals, and Biovest International, Inc. have over a hundred employees, and Ron has either served on the Board of Directors or as special counsel for them providing important input into the organization and the operations of these healthcare companies.

Ron does all of this guided by his keen desire to make a significant contribution to medical care. He is a great humanitarian, and a "quiet" philanthropist. He has served for many years as General Counsel for the Brewer Foundation which has helped support the college education of working people, in Marion and Herrin Illinois, who otherwise would be unable to afford the pursuit of a college degree. Ron also played a very significant role in the development of the new Marion Hospital because of his commitment to the welfare of the local community. For example he personally arranged and financed the visit of the initial party interested in acquiring the old hospital and building a new one. This resulted in a competitive process with several national hospital management companies vying for an opportunity that has had tremendous financial benefits for the City of

Marion including job creation and that has favorably impacted the quality of hospital care for the local community.

Personally, in my life, I don't believe that I have had the privilege to have the friendship of someone more inspiring than Ron. He lives his life guided by an unwavering commitment to the highest ethical standards. I sincerely believe that Ron would manage the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois in a very professional manner that always put the welfare of patients first, that fully respected the medical judgment and decisions of the physician staff, and that put the financial interests of its other owners before his own.

Sincerely,



Frank E. O'Donnell, Jr MD