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April 19, 2011

RECEIVED
APR 25 2011
HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Mr. Dale Galassie, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
2nd Floor
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Certificate of Exemption #E-001-11, Surgery Center of Southern Illinois

Dear Mr. Galassie:

This is a letter of support in favor of the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois ownership being transferred to Mr. Osman.

I have been practicing ophthalmology in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, for almost 30 years. I have known Mr. Osman for approximately half that time and have worked with him extensively and closely in a variety of professional situations. I owned and operated a surgery center in Cape Girardeau for a number of years and also had a satellite clinic in Marion, Illinois, for a number of years during which time I operated in the facility in question. I am very familiar with Mr. Osman's knowledge of medical and surgical center operations as well as his ethics and character. I would venture to say there aren't a half a dozen attorneys in the United States who have a better working knowledge of surgery center operations than Mr. Osman. His ethics and character are above reproach and I never saw an example of him violating his principal of placing patient care first and foremost in any activity.

With regards to the comment that only a physician run group can assure that health care is at the forefront, I would simply point out that is not supported by the facts. There are multiple surgery centers in the United States that are run by third party nonphysician organizations that practice very good medicine. The ability to combine good business practice with sound medical decision making ultimately leads to a much better patient care experience and a much more satisfactory outcome. I would expect that this would be the foundation for Mr. Osman's operating the surgery center.

Additionally, I think changing ownership in this facility will enhance its utilization in the Marion area by opening it to a multitude of specialties. This should enhance medical care by providing patients with more options at a lower cost. In conclusion, I think the transfer of this ownership to Mr. Osman would be a significant benefit to the people of Southern Illinois.

Thank you.

Best regards,

RLKies

Richard L. Kies, M.D.
RLK/mak