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May 5, 2011

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
Attn: HFSRB Staff
525 West Jefferson – 2nd Fl.
Springfield IL 62761

RE: Letters In Opposition to Project E-001-11

Dear Board:

Enclosed are over 1,000 letters of opposition to the proposed change of ownership involving the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois, Marion ("Surgery Center").

As the physicians comprising Marion Eye Centers and Optical ("Marion Eye Center") made clear at the public hearing, they will not continue to provide care at the Surgery Center if the Change of Ownership to Cirurgia Centro and Ronald Osman is approved. However, as these physicians also made clear, they are dedicated to providing care to their patients.

Marion Eye Center sent a letter (copy attached) to their patients to understand the impact their leaving Marion would have on access to healthcare and how it would affect their patients. The letter invited individuals who felt the consequences of the proposed Change of Ownership would adversely affect them to voice their opposition as written public comment. The Marion Eye Center's patients responded – overwhelmingly – and we ask their voices to be heard.

These are not form letters. These letters do not address the nuances or technicalities of the Certificate of Need process. These are hand-written, typed, personal letters presented to this board and addressing a single fundamental theme: Marion Eye Center is important to these patients and to this community. Marion Eye Center performed 97% in 2005, 94% in 2006, 93% in 2007, 94% in 2008, and 85% in 2009 **of all procedures** performed at the Surgery Center. Approving this change of ownership will drive out Marion Eye Center, the group that has been the core of this Surgery Center, and will irrevocably alter the role it has maintained in this community.

Marion Eye Center's patients have identified and presented the most salient point we hope the Board will consider: **losing access to the services of the Marion Eye Center will harm the delivery of healthcare in this community**.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark J. Silberman

Enclosures

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
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April 15, 2011

Dear Patients,

As you may already know, my plans to purchase the surgery center where we do surgery here in Marion, not the office, were thwarted when a local attorney, Ronald Osman, went around me and negotiated a deal to purchase the very same surgery center I was in the process of buying. However, given the importance of ensuring there is access to quality healthcare in the community, this change of ownership must be approved by a state board called the Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

I am opposing this change of ownership and invite you to do the same if you believe, as I do, that this change of ownership would impair access to healthcare in Marion, rather than improve it or even maintain it. In deciding whether or not to oppose this project, I feel it is important for you to understand why I oppose the sale of Marion Surgery Center to Mr. Osman.

I do not trust Ronald Osman. I have had prior business dealings with Mr. Osman. He was, infact, my attorney. Despite being my attorney, he filed a lawsuit against me using the same information which he provided to me as my attorney, which was thrown out, but not before Mr. Osman was removed from the case by the Judge. There is an ethical rule for lawyers that basically says: you don't file lawsuits against your own clients. Mr. Osman did. Mr. Osman also took steps to buy this surgery center out from under me. His reputation for putting the best interests of the community speaks for itself – but I will also add that I believe a doctor's practice should be controlled by doctors – not lawyers – and should be focused on the best care for the patients.

It is difficult for me to say this, but if this change of ownership is approved, I will not continue to provide services at this surgery center. I am committed to provide care to you, my patients, and want to continue to provide access to quality healthcare at the surgery center near your home and in your community. However, I do not trust Ronald Osman and I cannot operate in the surgery center where he is the owner and in charge.

If you agree that this Change of Ownership would harm access to healthcare in Marion more than it would benefit it, please join me in opposing this project. Your written comments, typed or handwritten, should be sent to our address in the enclosed return envelope.

Yours truly,

Dr. Maqbool Ahmad

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OSCAR CONNER
14089 SUNSET RD
SESSER, IL 62884

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

S.TRS

3-19-11

Sirs;

I would like to see the marion & Eyecenter stay in marion. It would be very helpful to me as well as the other customers. It would be very hard to get to see one as you ~~[illegible]~~ it I had to have surgery, which I am going to have to have before very long. I have been to a Retina surgeon at ~~[illegible]~~ mt vernon. I hope you can get your way at marion for that would ~~[illegible]~~ so much better for me.

Yours Truly
Norman E Butler

Norman Butler
441 N. Thompson St.
Carrier Mills, IL 62917-1146

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NORMAN BUTLER
441 N THOMPSON ST
CARRIER MILLS, IL 62917

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To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

Over

Dear Sir

We, as senior citizens can not be without a place as handy as Marion for eye surgery I'm 87 + like all others, need this building for older patients who can not afford to go any further distance for eye care. Marion Eye center has patients in so many places, they certainly depend to keep going to Marion for treatment

of all places, why did you pick this building for your new physician health care, when there are other buildings available

I say find another place to do + donot try to take over a place that has been established for these good doctors, who as e patients depend so much on their highly praised work. Please don't upset their good + deliable care.

Thank you
Kathleen Goetting
201 Lon dell
Chester Ill 62233

Ms. Kathleen Goetting
201 Lon Dell Dr
Chester, IL 62233

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

KATHLEEN GOETTING

201 LONDELL

CHESTER, IL 62233

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
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We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

To whom This may Concern:
We'd like to keep this Marion Eye Center open, like its been for these past yrs, so marion patients don't have to drive out of town to seek help & surgery.

Thank you

Ronald & Ruth Weinhoffer

To whom this may Concern:

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Yours truly,

Dr. Maqbool Ahmad

Rev. Bob Jones
500 Telephone Rd.
Galatia, IL 62935-2300

april 1/2011

To whom it may concern -
I, Charles R. Jones am 92 yrs old.
I have been a patient of yours
(now Dr. Olk) for past few yrs.
I chose your services when
I could have gone to V.A.
I would prefer your services
stay as they are.
I have been pleased

Yours sincerely -
Bob Jones

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1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Faisel Ahmad, M.D. • Omar Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • Micah Brasel, O.D. • Dolly Campbell, O.D William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Rachel Shewmake, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D. • Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

CHARLES JONES
500 N TELEPHONE RD
GALATIA, IL 62935

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

To the Marion
Eye Center.

I've been seeing
Dr Alk + Dr Umana
for yrs. I pray
nothing changes.
Please leave
things as are.
Thanks for
listening.

Martha Travis

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
1-800-344-7058

McLeansboro
1-618-643-2650

Metropolis
1-800-344-7058

Mt. Vernon
1-618-244-2777

Murphysboro
1-618-565-1405

Nashville
1-618-327-3900

Pinckneyville
1-618-357-2020

Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D
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Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

DOROTHY TRAVIS

108 W 20TH STREET

METROPOLIS, IL 62960

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

3-12-2011

Marion Eye Centers and Optical

Upon receiving your letter, I am writing in opposition to a non-physician non-healthcare organization trying to take over the Surgery Center.

I have been a patient of Dr. George Ortiz MD for some time and I have had surgery performed by him.

I am 75 yrs of age and the Surgery Center is very close to where I live. My social security would not cover having to travel outside of Marion. I would not appreciate someone making non-medical decisions about my eyes.

Dr. Ortiz is a fine Dr. and he knows about my needs.

Keep the surgery center where it belongs. in Marion.

Truly Yours

Emily

To the Illinois Health Planning Board!

We are asking you to please honor Dr Ahmad's intent to purchase the Marion eye Surgery Center.

Both I and my husband have had surgery there, were very pleased with the results, and would not want to go anywhere else for care.

We have Children, grandchildren, and now great grandchildren in the area and want the same high quality of surgery care for them.

The center is easily accessible, with easy, safe parking to a large area, and would be a great loss to a lot of people.

Dr Ahmad, and his staff has earned high respect from this area. Please let us Keep the Marion center.

Thank you

Marion and Mary Ellen Searcy
1411 McCowen Lane
Carterville, IL 62918

618-985-8381

To Whom it may Concern, 3-14-11

We truly need the Marion Surgery Center to stay in its current location. We depend on them for quality care for our eyes. Most of us are senior citizens and it is hard for us to travel long distance for our eyecare. We need good quality Doctors like Dr. Olk, Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz and Dr. Umana.

Also, consider all the jobs that would be lost to that community. It is hard times and good jobs are hard to find. So, please keep Marion Surgery Center in its current location. Thank you for your Understanding,

Sincerely,
Pauline Newcomb

Pauline Newcomb
548 Abelson Dr Apt 206
Carmi, IL 62821-1586

3-12-11

To whom it may concern!

Concerning the purchase of the Marion Eye Surgery Center. I think Dr. Whmack should be able to buy a center and all the doctors stay there to do their surgerys.

We are of the older generation (60's & 70's, it would be an inconvonice and a hardship for us to travel outside the area. We have to have someone drive us out of town for appointment now.

Also not to mention the loss of jobs, and revenues, for the community, its not fair that these good doctors should have to move and leave all their patience behind.

Thanks you,
Richard & Ruby Cluck

Ruby L. Cluck
506 N. Buchanan St.
Benton, IL 62812

3-12-11

To whom it may concern:

Concerning the purchase of the Marion Eye Surgery Center. I think Dr. Ahmad should be able to buy the center, and all the doctors stay there to do their surgeries.

We are of the older generation (60's & 70's), it would be an inconvenience and a hardship, for us to travel outside the area. We have to have someone drive us out of town for appointments now.

Also not to mention the loss of jobs and revenue for the community. It's not fair that these good doctors, should have to move and leave all their patients behind.

Thank You
Ruby Cluck

Ruby L. Cluck
506 N. Buchanan St.
Benton, IL 62812

Christopher Ill.
Mar 14, 2011

Dear Sir:

I am Writing This letter in regards of the Sale of the Marion Surgery Center. I was always told if Nothing is broke don't try to fix it. This Center has been used for all of these years by these doctors and their Patients. I would like to see stay like it is.

My wife and I had our Surgery by the doctors there. It's Close to get there and is Close for other Patients to use. I am Sure that it is Very good for the City of Marion. We have been Patients of these Doctors and would like it to Stay as is. I am Very much in favor of this sale going To dr. ahmad. and Have Everything Close.

Yours Truly
Nathan A. Valleroy

Mr. Nathan A. Valleroy
509 E. John St.
Christopher, IL 62822-1901

March 12, 2011

I am responding to the letter received about the buying of the surgery center.

It would be a terrible hardship for older people to have to travel further away for there surgeries, as the decision's made by a non healthcare organization would not be in the patients best interest

I see Dr. George Ortiz he has been my Doctor for many yrs. he knows me and my needs, I am Diabetic with his experience, we need him and the other Doctors. Your eyes are the light to the world and there experience in surgeries are of great importance

I am unable to travel any distance.

They have a great staff and being a older person makes you feel you are important to them.

Why change a good thing for unknown resources who may not be in your best interest.

Please leave the Surgery Center, Where it counts the most In Marion.

Julia Allgair

Woodruff Management

Woodruff Management
601 East Campus Drive
Carbondale, IL
62901

Phone: 618-457-3321
FAX: 618-529-4484
email: jeffw@woodruffmanagement.com

Monday, April 4, 2011

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

Re: Certificate of Exemption No. #-011-11, Surgery Center of Southern Illinois

Dear Chairman Galassie

I write in my capacity as former patient of Dr. Maqbool Ahmad and as one who has had business relationships with both Dr. Ahmad, and Dr. Ortiz, minority partners.

This letter is written in opposition to the pending Certificate of Exemption Application referenced Above. Granting of the Certificate (regardless of benefit or lack thereof to health care consumers) will result in significant negative impact for Physicians Maqbool Ahmad, George Ortiz, and Ukeme Umana whose aggregate ownership of partner units is 34%.

Should the certificate be approved and a sale subsequently consumated the minority partners will be placed in a difficult if not untenable situation.

1. Unless there are provisions, or terms, or buy sell agreements (not mentioned in the original application for exemption) then the minority partners, should they wish to continue using the center will be obligated to do so under such terms, conditions, and prices as the new owner alone might see fit. Agreement on prices and terms between adversaries is seldom easy or amicable. And no detailed "price per use" schedule is included in the application.

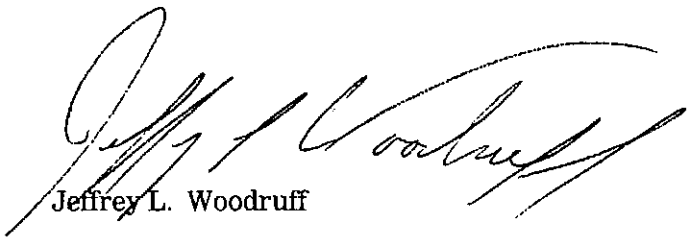
2. Should the minority holders desire to share in such profits as might be generated under new ownership, their ability to do so will be compromised by the fact that Cirurgia as Managing entity has not set a forth a formula by which such profits might be shared. Nor has Cirurgia set forth that share of gross income which it might hold back as its compensation for serving as the Manager. Thus Cirurgia, by its Manager could, adjust the Manager's compensation so as to either raise or lower the "net profit" of

the entity. Money to the minority would thus by allocated at the sole discretion of the majority owner.

3. Should the minority share holders desire to escape the partnership and sell their interests, there exists no public buyer. Nor is there included a per-unit purchase offer proffered by the proposed buyer (Cirurgia Centro). Thus the minority partner's interest will have only such value as the Cirurgia might arbitrarily assign to it. And Cirurgia will have neither obligation nor motivation to offer a high buy out price to minority holders under the scenario presented.

4. Should Drs. Ahmad, Ortiz, Ukeme or others decide that their continued use of the Marion Surgicenter is not in their best interests, their options may be seriously limited, Since the potential of building yet another surgicenter in or near Marion is subject to the same sort of consideration by the planning board is this proposed acquisition.

In Summation: Many of the current partners may be placed in a situation where they maintain liability for the ongoing operations of the center, while at the same time they will have only an advisory role in the setting of policies, rates, and standards for that facility. They will have no guarantees as to what they will have to pay, no guarantees as to what if anything they might earn, no place to sell their units (other that Cirurgia), and no guaranteed opportunity to construct a competing facility if they were able to extract themselves from the Marion Surgery Center. I am therefore opposed the exemption



Jeffrey L. Woodruff

To Marion City Council

I am writing about the Surgery Center in Marion. It has come to my attention that this building may be sold for other purposes than to help patients and their needs. It would no longer be a medical physicility. I feel this is not in the best interest of the people of this area or to the city of Marion. Many patients come, even from long distances, to use this facility . With such high gas prices it would be a hardship to many to take that away in an already troubled economy. I would like to see the jobs that the center helps preserved . I believe it would hurt the Marion economy from food service people who benefit from patients coming to this area and spending money on food. Also these same patients shop , buy gas, and also stop other places while in this area . I think you should stop and realize the overall impact loosing the Surgery Center would make

on everyone. Why make hardship in an already hard time for the people in the Marion area?? Thank you.

Patty Howard

17225 Akin Blacktop

Benton, Il. 62812

3-21-11

To Marion City Council:

I am writing in regards to the Surgery Center in Marion. It has come to my attention this building may be sold for other purposes than to help patients and their needs. I feel this is not in the best interest of the people of this area or to the city of marion. There are many patients that come from along way away to use this facility, and with gas prices it would be a hardship to take that away in an already troubled economy. It is very important to help preserve the jobs that this center helps, and the patients that are in need of care. I also believe this helps the economy in Marion area for everyone from the food service people that benefit from the patients coming to this area and spend money on food, to bringing people to this area that would not normally come, and shop, buy gas,

and other stops they may make. I believe strongly this would hurt not only the patients but the entire town of businesses, and the employees that would benefit from the jobs. I think it is important to realize the impact loosing this center would make on everyone. Why make hardship in an already hard time for the people in this area. thank you

Catherine Warren
Catherine Warren
PO Box 73 thompsonville IL

62890 (618)294-0006

Dear Sir

We need Marion Eye Centers. My Wife has had Stroke in 2005. If it Was not for Marion Eye Centers My Wife would Not be able to see today and With Marion Eye Centers at Marion She would not be able to So, it would be very inconvenience for her.

Marion Eye Centers is Vitally needed here in this area

The City Council
Let them go, Not Only
Will there be job Loss
A Lot of people May
Not be able to See
A Eye Dr.
We need them.
they are Great Dr
Very Kind to their
patients (if it Was Not
for these Doctor my
Wife Would be Blind)
We Need them Marion
Eye Center for Yvonne Henson
is Not able to travel Very
far at one time
We Need Surgery Center

thank You Elton Yvonne Henson

Heaven father
We thank You and
praise You Lord God
for Marion Eye Center
And a pray of protection
over Marion Eye Center
And the Doctors and all
Who Work there.
thank You Lord Jesus for
Keeping Marion Eye Center
in Marion, I ask You Lord Jesus
to send Your Holy Spirit
And Holy Angels around
them in Jesus Name
Amen

P.A. We will also
be pray for
Marion Eye Center
Everyday.
We have put them
on our pray list
to day.

March 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Marion Eye Center. We are desperately in need of the Marion Eye Center Surgery Center. They help lots of people and lots of elderly people who can't travel very far. I am one of these people. I've been going there for several years now and I think they have wonderful Doctors there. I have Macular Degeneration of the Retna and Dr. Olk has saved my vision.

I just had laser surgery and if it is still bleeding I will have to have more shots in my eye. Sometimes I've had to go every week to get shots and I have to find someone to take me. I had to have my first laser surgery done on both eyes in St. Louis and I just can't travel that far again. I am 79 years old.

I have also had cataract surgery the Marion Eye Center. It would be a great inconvenience to have to travel out of the area again. I know there are a lot of people who depend on this surgery center. Please don't allow this Center to have to close

Sincerely,
Freda L. Bonnett

Tommy Crim
126 E 3rd St Apt 2R
Metropolis, IL

3-16-11

The Marion Surgery Center provides an invaluable service to the residents of southernmost Illinois. The distances travelled by many patients are considerable. Many of the patients receive medicare or medicaid are in the low income level. Placing this service in the possesion of an unknown entity would essentially put this sight-saving care beyond our reach.

The Southernmost region of ILL is in desperate need of the jobs and medical expertise that center attracts to this area.

The Marion Surgery Center plays an indispensable part in our healthcare system and economy.

We as a community must retain this resource. It enhances our socioeconomic viablity.

Sincerely

Tonna Crim
a concerned and
very satisfied patient

3/13/2011

To Whom it May Concern,

Each Day I'm very thankful for my vision Correction. Dr Hanna is very skilled and I feel safe just knowing that his office is just a few miles away from my home. Dr Hanna & the staff of the Hanna Eye Center provide an important service to the community, the community of Southern Illinois.

Please give special Consideration for Dr Hanna, they already have established a pillar in the eyecare community.

In closing the times are uncertain why would you want to change and possibly risk the level of care for the patients. I hope that

all will work out in favor of Dr Umana and his team.

If there is anything else I can do please let me know.

Regards

Ronald Stertz

416 N 11th
Herrin, IL 62948

3-14-11

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support the Marin Eye Center. I have been a patient since 1993 and that building is like home to me. The nurses, staff, are like family. Dr. Ortiz has been my doctor and has performed several surgeries on me and I couldn't ask for a better doctor friend, brother, someone who really cares about your sight. I wouldn't know what to do without him. Dr. OIK just recently performed surgery on me and he is another doctor who cares about his patients. We don't need to lose them. We have lost enough doctors, nurses, already due to cutbacks in hospitals. Why lose something that we need in this area. We need the Marin Eye Center I know I do. There

are others that probably feel the same way. Why take something away that people really need in this area. We have lost enough already why lose something as important to everyone that has eye problems. We need to keep this facility opened and be able to grow and add on. Think what it would become. Wouldn't have to go to St. Louis, Chicago, someplace like that when we could have a place here in Marion that could prepare new jobs, to people that need it. The Marion Eye Center is like home to me I have been coming there for so long everyone is like family and that is what we need. Family to care about you and

I can say that they do. We should not have to lose something that can benefit this area. We need the Marion Eye Center to stay open and become bigger and better for the community Please Please Please Don't Close The Doors On Our Family, Friends Brothers, Sisters, that's what they are to me

Thank you

Viola Reed

Viola Reed
P.O Box 324
West Frankfort
Ill. 62896

March 28, 2011

Dr. Maqbool Ahmad, M. D.
MARION EYE CENTERS
Marion, Illinois 62959-9938

Dear Dr. Ahmad:

I am writing this letter to express my opposition regarding the intention of an outside individual to purchase the Southern Illinois Surgery Center-forcing the surgeons of the center to go elsewhere to perform surgery.

As a patient of Marion Eye Centers and Southern Illinois Surgery Center since 1997, I am proud to say that every surgery I have had at the center--five surgeries to be exact have been nothing short of successful each time. My vision is improved to nearly perfect, which would have not been possible if not for the highly skilled surgeons and staff at the eye centers and surgery center. I have always had the best surgery-side manners from your surgeons and the same treatment each time I have returned for follow-up visits.

Should this outsider accomplish what their intentions are, it would be very unfair and make many hardships on the patients of the surgery center-(myself included.) I became a client of the eye center and surgery center in 1997 with my first consultation with Dr. Umana concerning a pterigium growth on my eye. After removing the pterigium, the surgery center staff determined I had scar tissues and cataracts growing on each eye. As I mentioned earlier, today my vision is almost perfect--thanks to the great surgeons at your center.

In my opinion, no positive results will be obtained if an outsider purchases the surgery center(s). All the patients would have to travel outside the tri-state area for this un-parralled quality of eye care because they believe in and trust the surgeons at your facilities. Many operational decisions necessary at the center(s) then would be made by non-health care persons or entities. Also, there would be loss of jobs in the community thus resulting in loss of revenue in the community due to the doctors and nurses having to work outside the Marion area.

Again, I see no reason why the outside individual should be allowed to accomplish this very detrimental under-mining act to achieve selfish gains for themselves and their organization, if any. Although, I will not be able to attend the public hearing on April 5th, I would like to use this letter to voice my opinion and say "NO" to the Sale and acquisition of the Southern Illinois Surgery Center(s) to anyone other than the respective surgeons who practice there and have gained the trust and friendship of their many patients, which I am proud to be one of Those Patients!

Here's hoping the Illinois Planning Board will deny that Certificate of Need Exemption that has been applied for by the previous mentioned individual who appears to be more interested in his or her personal gains-rather than the welfare of the many patients of the surgery center(s).

Sincerely,

Belinda Dempsey

Belinda Dempsey

CAREY C. GILL
201 Twin Lakes Rd.
Carterville, IL 62918
(618) 985-4442

April 1, 2011

Health Planning Board

Via Facsimile & U.S. Mail

Re: Marion Eye Centers & Optical

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter regarding the Certificate of Need that was applied for relating to the Marion Eye Center. I strongly oppose the Certificate of Need.

I have been a patient of Marion Eye Center for numerous years. I first became their patient when I was interested in Lasik eye surgery. However, during my pre-surgery visit, the doctors of Marion Eye Center discovered I had a torn retina. It was an emergency and they immediately performed surgery to correct the problem. The surgery was done that day and saved my eyesight.

It is important for Marion Eye Center to be able to expand their surgery center and practice in Marion, IL. The local community needs retina services (as well as other services) on a daily basis. I was lucky, there happened to be a retina surgeon at Marion Eye Center that day, but he was only in the office once (or perhaps twice) a week. Had I arrived on a different day, I would not have received that surgery immediately, and it would have jeopardized my eyesight.

Had the doctors of Marion Eye Center not been able to perform the emergency surgery in Marion, I could have lost vision in my eye. I am certain I am not the only patient that has been helped by the fact that the doctors of Marion Eye Center can perform surgeries in Marion, IL.

It is also a great convenience to have surgeons available in Marion to take care of eye issues. It would be inconvenient and costly to travel to other places, like St. Louis, MO or Springfield, IL to receive the same kind of quality care that Marion Eye Center offers. That is added time and expense for the patients. Having patients in Marion also helps the economy of Marion, because we often buy gas, eat dinner, or shop before or after eye appointments. Personally, when my eyes are dilated, I have my husband take me to dinner, until I am able to drive home.

If Marion Eye Center were to expand and be able to perform more surgeries it would mean added jobs in the community. That is a huge benefit, especially due to the shape of the economy.

For the reasons stated above, I vehemently oppose the Certificate of Need. It is vitally important to the residents of Marion, Williamson County, and all of Southern Illinois that the doctors of Marion Eye Center continue to perform surgeries in Marion, IL.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinions with you. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact me at the number listed above or email me: at cgill@btbhh.com.

Very truly yours,

Carey C. Gill

CCG/

To whom it may Concern, 3-18-11

I am writing in support of letting Dr. Ahmad and the other eye surgeons keep possession of the eye surgery building. In this area the need to keep it would be more needed for health reasons better than for attorneys.

I am a patient of Dr. Olk's. He did surgery on my retina and it helped stopping damages so I can see.

A person's vision is so important and that makes the need of the building more important that the doctors keep the building.

Also the area is already hurting for jobs and this would be adding more people in the area not able to keep their jobs. It would make it harder for patients to be able to get the services they need locally without having to go farther away out of the area, so lets not take this away for what we have built here and no one has that worry about where to go, how to get there and making it harder for family to be with them.

An eye sight is very important and to have and to let you

know how much more in my family alone. My parents has had eye surgery's done that has helped them see better or keep their vision and they (my mom) is still getting treatments right now. My sister has also come from being blind (no vision) to be able to have a little vision to help her deal with her life and gave her hope.

There is alot of good results coming from the surgery center.

So please, I pray that you will not sell to no one but the eye dr's so we can continue having everything that we have.

The facility is already equipted for the surgery center and there is no need to remodel or extra cost added to keep it.

Sincerily
Carla Hensgen

P.S. Please recognize the good of the eye center and all that they do for everyone not just my family alone.

Thank you!

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Flora
1-618-662-3202

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
1-800-344-7058

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Nashville
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Pinckneyville
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Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vandalia
1-618-283-7100

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
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Sikeston
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- Loss of revenue for the community

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Thank you for your support.

NAME: Jeanne Parker

ADDRESS: 1514 N. Walnut

Marion, IL 62959

PHONE NUMBER: 618-922-3869

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NAME: Valerie Horton

ADDRESS: 2305 Rose of Sharon Rd.

Golatia, Il. 62935

PHONE NUMBER: 618-208-6322

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NAME: Betty Byers

ADDRESS: 1208 E. Stotlar #3

Herrin, IL 62948

PHONE NUMBER: 815-341-6561

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NAME: Jeremy Parker

ADDRESS: 1514 N. Walnut

Marion, IL 62959

PHONE NUMBER: 618-922-3869

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NAME: Valerie Horton

ADDRESS: 2305 Rose of Sharon Rd.

Golatia, Il. 62935

PHONE NUMBER: 618-268-6332

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To Our Loyal Patients:

At this time, we want to bring to your attention a matter which we believe is very important to us, our loyal patients, the city of Marion and the surrounding communities.

For the last 15 years, our surgeons have performed the majority of our eye surgeries at the Marion Surgery Center (SCA/ Southern Illinois Surgery Center) which was mainly owned by SCA (Surgical Care Affiliates). Our doctors had a minority share in it. Recently SCA decided to sell their majority share and after months of negotiation we signed a letter of intent to purchase it.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, is trying to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption to purchase it. If this attorney, who is certainly not our friend, is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this will be a detriment to our patients and community for the following reasons.

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- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by an attorney in delivery of healthcare
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing on Tuesday April 5, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. We ask for your help by writing a letter of support and return it in the enclosed envelope. It would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

The Doctors and Staff Of Marion Eye Centers and Optical

ALAN SELANDER

NAME: Alan Selander

ADDRESS: 514 So. Wall St. Apt. #7
Carbondale, IL 62901

PHONE NUMBER: 618-453-1294

3/13/2011

To Whom it May Concern,

Each Day I'm very thankful for my visual Correction. Dr Hamm is very skilled and I feel safe just knowing that his office is just a few miles away from my home. Dr Hamm & the staff of the Hamm Eye Center provide an important service to the community, the community of Southern Illinois.

Please give special consideration for Dr Hamm, they already have established a pillar in the eyecare community.

In closing the times are uncertain why would you want to change and possibly risk the level of care for the patients. I hope that

all will work out in favor of Dr Umana and his team.

If there is anything else I can do please let me know.

Regards

Ronald Jaretz

416 N 11th
Herrin, IL 62948

I am against lawyar buying Surgical Care Center. Please reconcider this.

Shawn Cobb

I am against A lawyer buying this medical center. Please reconcider against this Please

Cyndy Criswell
700 S. Lewis Lane Apt. 903
Carbondale, Illinois, 62901

I am against another lawyer office. Our medical needs are more important than lawyer offices.

Valincia Boswell
700 S. Lewis Ln #406
Carbondale, Ill. 62901

A lawyer does not have business in medicare

Roy Adam By OM
815 633 8510

I don't want a lawyer buying the surgical center.

– Mike Montoya
815 347 0961

I do not want a lawyer to buy the surgical center.

Steven J Dale
(224) 234 8306

I am against another law firm, I encourage you to keep the ~~eye office~~ marion eye Center

(618)319-5284

Please Do Not Sell the medical Center Tiffany Davis (618)317-5242

Please Do Not Sell to the lawyer
Nate Vely 773 485 8959

I am against another law office we need to keep Surgical Eye Care Center

Jasmin Baker
(312) 237-6604

Sezilla Welch
I signing this patition to
Keep Marion Eye Center please
do not sell to the Lawyer

Caron Washington
I PAtition to keep Marion Eye Center for
the people.

I am against having a lawyer
buying a health enter
Walter Dean

Yorel Johnson
I am Anti lawyer buying
the surgical office. I am pro
medical 618-713-7841 - 708 North
Yorel Johnson St Murphysboro

PLEASE DONT SELL!
Shawn A Grant TO LAWYER!
(618) 223-2668

My Name is Mallory Williams
I reside in carbondale IL
I would like To state that
I would be further or better
benifited by Marion eye center
rather than a legal firm
If you would like to reach
Me my number is (618) 584-2975
Address 700 S. Lewis Ln Apt 1402
carbondale IL 62901 Thank you

Please do not sale the surgical
care center to Lawyer. It
is a Medical Facility.
Ashr Albe (618) 967-6427

March 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Belinda Hanson, I am a Caregiver (POA) for Frances Stewart from Buncombe, NC. She is a patient of Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, and Dr. OK. She is 81 yrs old and can no longer drive because of her ~~bad~~ eyes. She has full confidence and feels secure when she comes to each of these Dr.'s because they have proven to her and me that they care for her and what happens to her.

I shudder to think where she would be if there was no Marion Eye Center with these excellent Doctor's saving people's eyes everyday. To do away with this facility as these seasoned Doctor's would be devasting to their patients and to the surrounding communities ~~and~~ as well as the economy. I am confident Fran would be blind right now if it wasn't for Marion Eye Center. We travel 30 miles to get there from her home and to travel any further would be impossible in her condition as she is walking with the aid of a walker and with her eye disease, please enable Dr. Ahmad to purchase the establishment. So elderly people can continue to get excellent care in a

Families deserve dealing with Dr.'s whom they already Trust.

Sincerely
Belinda Halloran (POA)
for Frances Stewart

3-13-11

Marion Eye Center + Optical
Marion, Il

Gentlemen:

It has come to my attention that Marion Eye Center may have to move their surgery procedures ~~from~~ out of the Marion area. I think this is outrageous for all the doctors patients to have to travel elsewhere for their surgery. mainly me. I have to have someone else drive me over to Marion, and the inconvenience would be awful.

I think if dr. Ahmad has signed a letter of intent to purchase Marion Eye - he surely should be first choice and not a non-phipician non-healthcare entity trying to undermine dr. Ahmad's purchase.

Dr. Olk is my surgeon, and I find it convenient for me to go to Marion, Il. instead of another city.

How many jobs will be lost in Marion if they move?

Loss of revenue to the city of Marion will be tremendous!

Additional retina services will also

(over)

be a great help to all those who will need it, and not have to travel miles more for the service.

Please, reconsider, and let Marion Eye Center stay where it is, and the Doctors can stay in Marion.

Thank you.

Evelyn Tauber
1502 E. Main St.
West Frankfort, Il. 62896

To whom it May Concern, 3-18-11

I am writing in support of letting Dr. Ahmad and the other eye surgeons keep possession of the eye surgery building. In this area the need to keep it would be more needed for health reasons better than an attorney's.

I am a patient of Dr. Olk's. He did surgery on my retina and it helped stopping damages so I can see.

A person's vision is so important and that makes the need of the building more important that the doctors keep the building.

Also the area is already hurting for jobs and this would be adding more people in the area not able to keep their jobs. It would make it harder for patients to be able to get the services they need locally without having to go farther away out of the area, so lets not take this away for what we have built here and no one has that worry about where to go, how to get there and making it harder for family to be with them.

An eye sight is very important and to have and to let you

know how much more in my family alone. My parents has had eye surgery's done that has helped them see better or keep their vision and they (my mom) is still getting treatments right now. My sister has also come from being blind (no vision) to be able to have a little vision to help her deal with her life and gave her hope.

There is alot of good results coming from the surgery center.

So please, I prey that you will not sell to no one but the eye dr's so we can continue having everything that we have.

The facility is already equipted for the surgery center and there is no need to remodel or extra cost added to keep it.

Sincerily
Carla Hesse

P.S. Please recognize the good of the eye Center and all that they do for everyone not just my family alone.

Thank you!

To Whom It May Concern

I am a patient of Marion Eye Center. I have Macular degeneration. I have to go to Marion eye center in Marion for surgery quite often. I am a patient of Dr. Alk. It would be very inconvenient for me if I could not go to Marion Surgery Center I would hope that I would not have to travel outside the Marion area. I will follow Dr Alk wherever this might be because I feel very comfortable with him & his experience. I would also hate to hear that we would no longer have retina services available to me and others on a daily basis. I would also hate to think we could lose our surgery center and the many

jobs that would be lost also. We are a very high unemployed area already. We don't need more.

Please reconsider your decision to change this

Sincerely
Terry Messenger
308 W. Lucretia St
Sesser, Il. 62884
618-625-5860

Howard O. Hill
406 S Jesse St
Christopher, Ill.
62822

To: Illinois Health Planning Board

Dear Sirs:

I am a citizen of Christopher, Il. and a patient of Marion Eye Center and Optical of Marion, Il.

I have been using their services for over sixteen years and have been well pleased with their services.

My wife and I have both received implants and have been well pleased with the results of our operations.

We may soon require additional surgery due to our ages of 85 and 87 years, and hope to have good surgeons and a place near our homes to receive treatment.

We will feel confident that Marion area and all of Southern Illinois, and even farther away, will have excellent surgeons and facilities to rely on if the Marion Eye Center and the Marion Surgical Center were to remain here and be operated by people with healthcare background and experience.

To Illinois Health Planning Board continued

Southern Il. needs the jobs and the revenue associated with the Health-care establishment.

I think it would be devistating for some entity or an individual to receive a certificate of need who doesn't have the health-care background.

The Marion Eye Center's objective is to make available professional eye-health-care services to the people in need and to remain a dedicated establishment.

Our hopes are that Marion Eye Center of Marion will be succesful in their desires to acquire the Marion Surgery Center.

Howard O. Hill
A concerned citizen

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

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1-618-833-8359

Benton
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Carbondale
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Staff

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

JOHNNY KEY

6323 S ST HWY 148

MULKEYTOWN, IL 62865

It would be best to keep
ASC Center in marion
Johnny Key

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
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- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

March 13, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a patient of Dr. Ortiz's practice. I hate the thought his office may be relocated to another area. In these times, with a struggling economy moving this facility to another area would rob our community of much needed jobs. People on fixed incomes who use this practice could be forced to go without care.

The person(s) trying to take over are not healthcare based, what interest do they have in a medical facility? Considering the business is very well established why would anyone consider moving it elsewhere. I am hard pressed to see how anyone's best interest could be served by moving this from an area where it started and has been successfully run for more than 2 decades.

What would happen to the staff that work there? Would they lose their jobs or possibly be forced to commute to some further location? I can't imagine how anyone could be helped by this happening. Does our area need more people unemployed?

Respectfully,

Roscoe A Dellinger

Roscoe A. Dellinger

8754 Parkdon St.

Christopher, Illinois 62822

March 13, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a patient of Dr. Umana's practice. I am taken aback at the thought his office may be relocated to another area. There are so many reasons to avoid this folly. The economy is rock-bottom and moving this facility to another area would rob our community of much needed jobs. Many elderly patient's on fixed incomes would be seriously affected by trying to either find new providers or means to travel to the new location.

On the standpoint of a non-healthcare based group taking over ownership, I am not sure how sound a decision it would be. What background does this group have, and although I understand diversifying are they even remotely tied to medical fields?

I truly think it is in the best interest of all involved if the ownership is kept within the medical community. I believe that it would serve the best interest of all involved from the staff at the offices, to the patients and as a whole the community.

Respectfully,

Sharon K. Dellinger

Mrs. Sharon K. Dellinger

8754 Parkdon St.

Christopher, Illinois 62822

3-14-11

Marion Eye Centers

I dont Know what the Problem is with the Sale, but I've always had good Service & very Qualified doctors.

They have Served our family for many years.

When you reach a certain age its not easy to get transportation to other towns.

Marion Center is where it should be for our area & Services

P.S. Mr. Artz Sincerely
I trust with Marlene
my eye sight. Richey

03-14-11

TO: Whom It May Concern:

RE: Sale of Marion Eye Center

My spouse and I have been patient's at Marion Eye Center for many years. We have been seen at both Marion and Carbondale Clinic's.

We believe it would be a grave error to sale Marion Eye Center to a non physician/non healthcare entity. We feel as many patient's that we would be loosing the professional medical background, and the stability of the Doctor/Patient relationship.

Over the years we have enjoyed the comfort and peace of mind through the caring staff and we would not be willing to travel out of this area.

We join many other Southern Illinoisan's who agree that selling to "out of area entities" would be harmful to the community and unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Paula & Phemister Morris Phemister

Morris and Paula Phemister
703 W. Sycamore St.
Carbondale, Il 62901
(618) 457-5878

RONALD C BANFIELD
14726 Followell Drive
Marion, IL 62959

March 13, 2011

To whom it may Concern:

It is my understanding that our Marion Eye Center may be forced to close because something else feels it would be more important to our area. I do not agree.

I have lived and worked in the Marion area since the late 70's. I remember going to the eye center first as an emergency. Time and expertise is important when you have something in your eye that could cost you your sight.

Now that I am retired, in addition to glasses, I have been treated for a reoccurring eye infection by Dr. Hutchison and have had surgery procedures preformed by Dr. Umana on multiple occasions. Most of the occasions involved me going home with my eye covered. This eye problem will continue...how many men would you trust coming at your eye holding a knife! I have complete confidence in the doctors that treat me at the Marion Eye Center.

My wife and I are not the only people to be inconvenienced or have more expense traveling elsewhere on limited incomes to a further eye clinic. Please consider the young families, income based apartment residents, all the nursing home residents and the many people who cannot afford to take off work for an eye appointment. Marion eye Center is convenient and accommodating to all.

The Marion Eye Center employs many people. We need all the jobs we can keep. I enjoy seeing all the familiar faces at the eye clinic and know that many of them have been employed there for years. I hope you decide that these people can keep their jobs and retire in the Marion area just as I have done.

Please keep Marion Eye Center in Marion.

Sincerely,

Ronald Banfield

Called + spoke w/ Mrs. Banfield. Returned the letter. She will retype & send back.
618-922-1032

March 31, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Marion Eye Centers is an excellent health care provider. I support their intent to purchase the surgery center. This will be beneficial for the local community and add convenience for all patients.

Sincerely,

Khalid Javed

1201 E Clark Rd
Herrin IL 62948

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

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1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
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MARION DELLABETTA
405 EAST 5TH STREET
JOHNSTON CITY, IL 62951

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

I am for the Marion Eye Center
9/Mario

March 24, 2011

To Whom it may Cu... Concern:

This decision to not sell to Dr Amad and the Marion Ice center is ridiculous this area is in dire need of this facitily period.

People have to travel far enough for health treatments now.

We should try to keep all the jobs we have in our state. Traveling is a stressful and expensive item for the people in this area. We have one of best and farmout surgeon in this area at this clinic - I'm positive of the statment I just made.

We need this facility!

NAME: Ms. Ellen Scaggs

ADDRESS: 6206 Main

Benton, Il 62812

PHONE NUMBER: 618-724-4059

Leo M. Watkins
35 Evergreen Drive
Harrisburg, Illinois 62946

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider the following letter of support in regard to the Marion Eye Center's attempt to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. I am currently a patient of the Marion Eye Center and am well satisfied with their services.

As of right now, I have to make travel arrangements from Harrisburg to Marion for my appointments, any further travel would be an even greater inconvenience.

Due to the problems with my eyes, I have had my son Jeff Watkins compose and sign this letter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leo M. Watkins Jr.

Leo M. Watkins

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

VITA POTTER

11377 HUSBAND ROAD

MARION, IL 62959

I absolutely oppose this Certificate I want the convenience that is NOW available

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

March 17, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board
c/o Marion Eye Center
P.O. Box 1178
Marion, IL 62959-9938

To whom it may concern:

As a current patient of Dr. Umana of Marion Eye Center, I have great concern learning that my doctor may have to relocate from the area where I live due to some other entity purchasing the Marion Surgery Center. I understand someone else is presently trying to stop the purchase by Dr. Ahmad, of Marion Eye Center, and are asking to be granted a certificate of need.

My reason for opposing the sale of this Center to anyone other than Dr. Ahmad is the fear it could cause the Marion Eye Center surgeons to have to relocate their practices outside of my area. This would cause hardship for myself and my family and all the other patients who have an established history with their present doctor(s) by possibly having to drive a longer distance or starting over with someone new if unable to drive outside of this area.

The fact that the applicant is a non-healthcare entity concerns me. Also, at this time in our economy we do not need to lose jobs in our community. We have highly skilled and experienced eye surgeons here now and we need to keep them in Marion.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen Berentsen

Karen Berentsen
15141 N. Bend Road
Carterville, IL 62918
618.988.6793

Charles & Patricia Nardini
12287 Bahama Drive
Marion, Illinois 62959

March 19, 2011

Marion Eye Centers
PO Box 1178
Marion, IL 62959

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to show support for the Marion Eye Centers. As patients of Marion Eye Centers, we have appreciated the great service and want the convenience of local service as well as all the other benefits Marion Eye Center has/does provide.

We oppose ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity, the loss of jobs and the loss of revenue for our community.

We don't like the lack of retina services needed in the area, and don't want to travel outside the area for service.

Charles & Patricia Nardini

Charles D. Nardini

Patricia Nardini

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
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Carbondale SIU
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Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Faisel Ahmad, M.D. • Omar Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • Micah Brasel, O.D. • Dolly Campbell, O.D William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Rachel Shewmake, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D. • Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Shella Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

JEAN HARVEY
806 EAST BOYTON
MARION, IL 62959

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

Yes let them have it

Jean Harvey

March 22,2011

Marion Eye Center
PO Box 1178
Marion, IL 62959

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is on the behalf of the recent possible purchase of SCA. I am very much opposed to the surgery center not being available in our area.

Every time I have an appointment with Dr. Umana, the waiting room is full. There is a real need for these services. The majority of the patients sitting there are senior citizens, which would be difficult to travel out of the area, may not have transportation elsewhere, & costly.

I live within an hour of the current center & it is very manageable to make an appointment. However, to go to a larger city for an appointment, would be a hardship. My appointments require dilating my eyes. It would be difficult to travel out of the area with the dilated eyes. The current location is easy access. If the surgery center were not available in the area & an appointment were to be cancelled, I might not be informed of it by the time I left for my appointment. Therefore, I would waste my time & maybe had to take time off work. Emergencies and cancellations in Dr. offices come up & not always in a timely manner.

Please reconsider the removal of our local surgery center in Marion.

Sincerely.

Sharon Martin

Sharon Martin
9137 E. Park St. Rd.
DuQuoin, IL 62832

March 13, 2011

To whom this may concern:

I received this letter on the 11 of this month, explaining that Marion surgical center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase. However a non-medical entity has applied to the IL Health Planning Board for a "certificate of need".

I have been going to the Marion Surgical Center for awhile. I appreciate it, as when I had cataracts' , Dr. Ahmad, and his staff put me right to ease, and the surgery went ahead with no incident. I am normally on the nervous side when it comes to my eyes.

I like Marion, as it is centrally located, the facility is set up well for patients comfort, and I would hate losing any of these trained, and professional personnel. Every one of them do a truly wonderful job. If losing them, any of the doctors, or this central location, it would force every one of these patients to wait longer for appointments, and this would be an atrocity not only for the staff, but for people like me.

I am getting older, and with age comes the dreaded macular degeneration. Fortunately it is dry now, but when it turns red (blood), I want to know where I can immediately go, and in the trusted hands of these people, have it taken care of.

This would mean I would have to travel further, more likely than not, delay treatment, with a smaller office and staff. I resent this intrusion on my eye care. I also do not appreciate the loss of revenue to the community.

I would like to ask the IL planning Board to look at the entire situation, what this means to us citizens, and I trust you will make the right decision, not only for this facility, but for us patients as well.

Thank you Sincerely,

Doris M. Amelotte
1000 Galeener St
Vienna IL 62995

Marion Eye Center 3-13-2011

I'm thankful that we have the Doctors and Eye Center in our Area.
It would be very to move it.
As older people can drive and have problem with transportation.
We need the jobs for this Employes of the Center and the Revenue for Marion.
So leave a good think alone.

My Eyes are bad and I always have received the best of Service.

Gisela G. Rilk
1410 N. Boulevard # A
Marion Ill. 62959

Marion Eye Centers and Optical
Marion, Il.

I am Writing this letter to express my support for the sale of the Surgery Center to Dr Ahmad so that he and his associates can do surgery there, also to make additional Necessary services available.

My husband and I have traveled to the Eye Center in Marion for about 30 years for Retina surgery, laser surgery and other Necessary treatment for our eyes. We travel about 80 mi Round trip, and it is the Nearest and best in our area. If someone other than Dr Ahmad Was allowed to purchase this building, they would probably move it and that would cause us to need to drive farther which we could not do. without difficulty.

There would be a loss of jobs and very much revenue in our area.

Please do all you can to see that those allowed to purchase the Eye Center be the best ones for the Needs of this area, in my opinion Dr Ahmad and his associates.

Sincerely Yours
Roberta Joy Guynn
3035 Douglass Rd
Eldarado, Il. 62930

James Guynn
3035 Douglass Rd.
Eldorado, IL 62930-3109

March 19, 2011

Marion Eye Centers and Optical

Dear Sir:

Regarding your letter concerning the sale of the Marion Surgery Center, I wish to express my opposition to others than Dr Ahmad and his associates purchasing the Surgery Center. His expertise along with his staff, gives us the advantage of a big city Medical attention in our area. In my observation of his patients, including My wife and myself who are in our senior years, any change in location would be a severe handicap for us.

The advantages of having and keeping it in Marion, far outweigh, in my opinion, all other possibilities.

Sincerely Yours,

James A Guynn

James Guynn
3035 Douglass Rd.
Eldorado, IL 62930-3109

March 13, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a current patient of the Marion Eye Center and have in the past used their Marion Surgery Center. I would like for you to know that it would be a great hardship on me if I had to travel much farther to get service from them in the future. I am elderly and traveling is not easy on me. The current location for the Marion Surgery Center is easily accessible to me now.

I would not want to change Surgery Centers because I am very comfortable with and have great confidence in my current doctors and surgeon. In addition, changing surgery centers could possibly cause me to have to travel to Memphis, Nashville, or St. Louis which again would make it physically difficult for me.

I want you to know that I highly oppose the possible changes to the current set-up for the Marion Eye Center. I do not want to lose this greatly valued Surgery Center for me or anyone else that is currently depending on them for their experience and integrity.

I will be unable to attend any public hearing because of my age and health issues. Therefore, please allow this letter to speak for me. Please help the Marion Surgery Center to stay where they are. In addition, please help them to stay under the ownership and management of the current proficient and well-trained healthcare personnel.

Very Sincerely,

Helen Sharp

Helen Sharp

Helen Sharp
4242 Briarwood Rd
Grand Chain IL 62941-2215

3/14/11

To Whom It May Concern,

It has recently come to our attention that Dr Ahmad's attempt to purchase the Marion Surgery Center is being thwarted by an outside entity. We urge the powers that be to allow Dr. Ahmad's intended purchase of this facility to become a reality.

We have been patients of The Marion Eye Centers for many years and have benefitted greatly from the expertise and convenience of care that these wonderful doctors offer. They are performing a great service to the people of Southern Illinois. Please accomodate their attempts in further serving us.

Respectfully,

Caroline Pederson

Caroline Pederson
2230 Walnut St
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Caroline Pederson
2230 Walnut Street
Murphysboro, Ill. 62966

March 25, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to the Illinois Health Planning Board receiving a Certificate of Need for the purpose of purchasing the current Marion Surgery Center.

This sale would mean loss of jobs in the community, loss of revenue for the community and patients would have to travel outside the area which is an inconvenience especially to senior citizens. It would also cause a lack of retina services which are vitally needed in the area on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

John R. Swinburne

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

WILLIAM LEADINGHAM

412 MARION ST deceased 1-14-11

MANHATTAN, IL 60442

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient ✓
- Patients having to travel outside the area ✓
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis ✓
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity ✓
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community ✓
- Loss of revenue for the community ✓

Patsy Leadingham

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

To Marion City Council:-

I'm writing this to let you know I have been informed that a non-healthcare entity is attempting to prevent Dr Ahmad from buying the Marion Surgery Center.

Please do not allow this to happen! It would be a great loss to all Marion citizens in more ways than I care to complete. Please do some some serious thinking of what this situation could cause. Also do consider the inconvenience and extra expense to all eye patients I am a patient of the eye center and need serious eye care. I'm 95 and no longer have a car. I could not afford transportation to a distant city.

Vivian Crofts
304 N. Mechanic
Marion, Ill. 62959

Mrs. Vivian Crofts
304 N. Mechanic St.
Marion, IL 62959

Virginia Hudgins
1302 Johnson St
Eldorado, IL 62930

I am writing this letter
because I am very concerned
about loosing the Marion
Eye Center. what an inconvience
it will cause us. I have had
3 surgery's there, & very successful.
and the loss of gals, & traveling
afar would be a lot of a burden
for people like me. the loss
of revenue would not be good
I really am opposing this, as I
am so grateful we have the
Marion Eye Center in our area
for a lot of reasons.
please! please! loosing
it would be a great loss
don't let this happen.

Good Luck Dr Ahmad!

Sincerely-
Virginia Hudgins

I would like to see Marion Eye Center to stay where it is for the People that has to go for their eye's beside's the way gas has come up People Couldn't go and get treatment for their eye's.

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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Anna
1-618-833-8359

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Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

LINDA ROBINSON
PO BOX 72
COLP, IL 62921

I do Not Like This!
Linda Robinson

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

- Inconvenience to the patient
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The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the certificate of need submitted by Attorney Ron Osmond, for the purchase of the Southern IL. Surgery Center.

Dr. Ahmad, who already has invested in the surgery center, should be allowed to purchase SCA's shares per his letter of intent.

NAME: Tina Wall

ADDRESS: 1302 W. Boulevard St
Marion, IL 62959

PHONE NUMBER: 618-983-7561

To Whom it May Concern,

I am opposed to the certificate of need submitted by Attorney Ron Osmond for the purchase of the Southern IL. Surgery Ctr.

Dr. Ahmad should be allowed to purchase SCA's shares, per his letter of intent to SCA.

NAME: Tim Kee

ADDRESS: 1213 Old Frankfort Rd.
Marion, IL. 62959

PHONE NUMBER: 751-1051

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the certificate of need submitted by the Marion Attorney Ron Osmond for the purchase of the Southern IL. surgery Ctr.

I am for Dr Ahmad to be able to purchase SCA's shares and to keep the Surgery Center operating as it has been.

NAME: Chanda McCoy
ADDRESS: 13171 Willow Pond Ln
Johnston City, IL 62959
PHONE NUMBER: 983-7561

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the certificate of need submitted by Marion Attorney Ron Osmond, to purchase SCA's shares of the S.IL. Surgery Center.

Dr. Ahmad should be allowed to purchase SCA's shares, as planned, and keep the surgery center open and accessable to Everyone!

NAME: Tracy Barras
ADDRESS: 20350 New Ohio Coal Rd
Pittsburg, IL 62974
PHONE NUMBER: 889-4447

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the certificate of need submitted by Ron Osmond, to purchase shares of the S. IL. surgery Center.

Dr. Ahmad should purchase SCA's shares as planned and keep the Surgery center open and accessable to everyone.

NAME: Andria Murrah

ADDRESS: 200 E. Edwards

Pittsburg, IL 62974

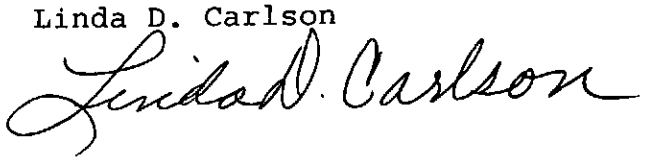
PHONE NUMBER: 998-9103

March 17, 2011

Marion City Council:

On behalf of Marion Eye Centers & Optical I submit my letter of support for their intent to purchase the Marion Surgery Center for the benefit of their present and future patients.

Yours truly,
Linda D. Carlson



3-19-2011

To whomever

I am in favor of Marion Eye Center Remaining in the Surgery Center & Being able to purchase said center, against anyone else purchasing the surgery center!!!

Conrad Mark Shultz

303 N. Division St.
Du Quoin Ill. 62832

Every reasons listed on the letter, because I object to

Tl Saperaschenko

NAME: Teresa Saperaschenko

ADDRESS: 1520 Taylor Dr.
Carbondale, IL 62901

PHONE NUMBER: 618-549-1055
Hospital

Ann Linck
13222Quarter Horse Rd
Marion, Il. 62959-6147

Marion, Eye Center:

Marion city Council
If the eye surgery center had to move, it would be an

#1.Inconvenience to the Patient

#2.Patients having to travel outside the area

Thank You
Ann Linck

4/18/11

TO whom it may concern -

I would like it to be known that I strongly oppose the sale of Marion Eye Centers Surgery office to Attorney Ronald Osman. I am of the opinion that service & care of patients should be the paramount factor considered at all times. Individuals or investment groups (in my opinion & experiences) that purchase outside their area of expertise rarely if ever meet and maintain the highest levels of service and care that were provided before sale. I am a disable veteran that receives 100% of my medical, dental, & vision care free of charge yet I prefer to pay out of pocket and utilize Marion Eye Centers. I have been a very happy client over the years and hope to maintain my relationship with this Company. Professionals, whether it be Doctors or Lawyers take an Oath to provide the best services with respect to their clients and to maintain a Code of Ethics. If the Purchase is approved to Atty Osman I do not believe it would be in the best interest of either the patients or the employee's of Marion Eye Centers and they would lose their business and confidence all together.

Sincerely,
Jason D. Miller

3-21-11

To whom it may Concern,

I am writing because of my concern that we could possibly loose our surgery Center in Marion. I have been a patient there and it's an excellent Center with the best of care. Right now we have the best of doctors and care. If we lose the surgery Center or any of the doctors. We will also lose revenue. A lot of people will be going out of State for surgery.

Sincerely,
Sue Bradley

Sue Bradley
491 Grand Chain Rd.
Karnak, IL 62956

3/28/2011

Dear Board Member

I have been a patient of Dr Ahmad and Dr Aiba since the early 1990's. We are exceptionally lucky here in Marion to have such top notch doctors as the ones at the Marion Eye Center. The staff from the front office to the nurses in the back are gracious and kind, they make you feel like family.

I do not know the intent of the attorney that is asking for the certificate from you but I believe that at the very least his motives are suspected. As I understand it is your duty to make decisions based on what is best for the patients and the community. I do not think this would be good for anyone except the attorney but not for us patients. I ask that you not grant the certificate.

No matter what happens I will continue to go where ever Dr Aiba and Dr Ahmad go to do surgery

Respectfully

M Clark Harris

I would very much like to have Marion Eye have the control of surgeries in Marion. These Doctors would be better equipped than a lawyer in my opinion. Several people from Carmi depend on them.

Florence McDaniel

3-16-11

TO: MARION EYE CLINIC

FROM: MARY/JOHN E DOCHERTY

Mary Docherty
8455 Woodbine Rd
Christopher IL 62822

SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SURGERY CENTER.

BEING A PATIENT FOR THE PAST 25 YRS WITH A COUPLE OF EYE OPERATIONS, I WHOLE HEARTLY BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST FOR THE MARION EYE CLINIC TO PURCHASE THE (SCA). IN THE PAST EYE SURGERY WAS PERFORMED AT CARBONDALE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL. I BELIEVE WITH THE NUMEROUS BABY BOOMERS FOLLOWING MY BIRTH IS GOING TO PUT AN INCREASE ON EYE SURGERY AT THE LOCAL HOSPITALS (MARION & CARBONDALE) WHICH HAS THEIR OWN SCHEDULES, WITH MARION EYE CLINIC TRYING TO SCHEDULE THEIR PATIENTS WITH AN ALREADY CROWDED SITUATION. BELIEVE ME, IT WILL ALMOST DOUBLE & MORE, WHICH WOULD CAUSE CRITICAL EYE CARE THAT NEED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION, TO BE DELAYED & CAUSING THE PATIENT TO HAVE DEVASTATING EYE PROBLEM, WHICH COULD & PROBABLY WILL BE FOR LIFE.

I BELIEVE PURCHASE OF SCA WOULD BE A TREMENDOUS ASSET TO MARION EYE CLINIC & THE PATIENCE WHICH IS SURE TO DOUBLE WITHIN 10 YRS OR LESS

JOHN/MARY DOCHERTY 8455 WOODBINE RD CHRISTOPHER IL 62822

John E Docherty

March 23-2011

To
Marion Eye Center

Having been a patient along with my deceased husband, Thomas K. Horn for many, many years with Marion Eye Center. Dr. Amad was our eye Surgeon, along with testing we were under several others Dr. Olk and we are so well pleased with them.

As a Eighty-seven year old widow who uses a cane & a Walker, it would be an inconvenience for me to travel outside the area for my eye care I depend on my son or daughter to get me to my appointments.

I have complete trust in the Staff and Doctors at Marion Eye Center

Sincerely,

Georgia L. Horn
1115 Cardinal Rd.
Carbondale, Ill. 62901
Carterville Phone # 618-985-2977

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3552

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
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McLeansboro
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Vienna
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West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D
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Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

DONALD AHRENDT

505 LEXINGTON CT

CARBONDALE, IL 62901

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
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- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

To - Marion Eye Centers & Optical, 3-14-11

After having the lenses replaced within the last 3 months, the MARION EYE CENTER SURGERY was very convenient since I came from Carbondale.

Donald Ahrendt

Mr Donald Ahrendt
505 Lexington Ct
Carbondale, IL 62901

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

FRED WEHMEYER

2906 BUSINESS HIGHWAY 13

MURPHYSBORO, IL 62966

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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Thank you for your support.

OVER

PLEASE KEEP MARION CENTER IF POSSIBLE. MT. VERNON IS 60 MILES FOR ME TO DRIVE.

THANK YOU

Fred Wehmeyer

Mr. Fred Wehmeyer Jr.
2906 Business Highway 13
Murphysboro, IL 62966-4514

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
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Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

THELMA PETTIFORD

109 S DIVISION APT 109

DUQUOIN, IL 62832

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support. OVER

17 March 2011

As a 90 year old patient of the Marion Eye Center I wish to give all of the reasons listed in the Centers letter, why it will be unwise to underwrite said certificate of need.

I have been serviced several times at the Center, also have friends & we are thankful for the good serve rendered.

It will be a great loss for the community & loss of much needed revenue.

Sincerely,

Thelma L Pettiford.

Ms Thelma Pettiford
109 S Division St Apt 109
Du Quoin IL 62832-1872

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
165 Plaza Dr.
Anna, IL 62906
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1102 N. Main Street
Benton, IL 62812
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1001 Beadle Dr.
Carbondale, IL 62901
1-800-654-3562

Carmi
1201 W Main
Carmi, IL 62821
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
404 E. Plaza Drive
Carterville, IL 62918
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
899 E. McCord St.
Centralia, IL 62801
1-618-532-1997

Chester
203 VanZant
Chester, IL 62233
1-618-826-5413

Eldorado
1204 US Hwy 45 North
Eldorado, IL 62930
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
101 East Main St.
Fairfield, IL 62837
1-618-842-3228

Harrisburg
#5 Eye Center Dr.
Harrisburg, IL 62946
1-618-252-2403

Herrin
321 South Park
Herrin, IL 62948
1-618-942-2900

McLeansboro
311 S. Jackson St.
McLeansboro, IL 62859
1-618-643-2650

Mt. Vernon
3111 Broadway
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
1-618-244-2777

Marion
1200 W. DeYoung
Marion, IL 62959
1-800-344-7058

Metropolis
1801 E. 5th, Box 890
Metropolis, IL 62960
1-800-851-3601

Murphysboro
1934 Walnut St.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
1-618-565-1405

SIU Carbondale
374 E. Grand Ave.
Carbondale, IL 62901
1-618-549-0615

Sparta
520 E. Broadway, Suite 100
Sparta, IL 62886
1-618-443-3111

Surgery Center
606 N. Treas
Marion, IL 62959
1-618-993-2113

Vienna
1005 W Vine St.
Vienna, IL 62995
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
909 W. Main St.
West Frankfort, IL 62896
1-618-937-2442

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. · Ukeme Umana, M.D. · George Ortiz, M.D. · Meth Linwong, M.D. · Irfan Ansari, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. · Mark Barlow, O.D. · William Fix, O.D. · Brenda Hutchison, O.D. · Lisa Thatch, O.D. · Mollie Raddatz, O.D.
Beth Westell, O.D. · Michael Kalaher, O.D. · Eric Weinbauer, O.D. · Debra Hall, O.D. · Chih-Jen Wang, O.D. · Lisa Hager, O.D.

DONALD CARSON

3020 EDEN PARK DR

HERRIN, IL 62948

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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Thank you for your support.

March 14, 2011

Re: Marion Eye Center

All of the above are reasons my husband and I want to express our feelings in favor of the Marion Eye Center.

We are both senior citizens (77 & 81) and have gone to the Marion Eye Center for years and we have always been very pleased with them. We are always thankful they are located close to us with such wonderful Care.

Patty Carson
Donald Carson

Patty Carson
3020 Eden Park Dr.
Herrin, IL 62948-3719

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
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Carlyle
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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

BETTIE MURRAY

381 S. 2ND

ALBION, IL 62806

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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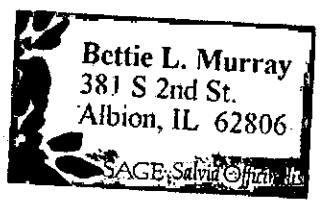
Thank you for your support.

I think they need to keep Marion Eye Center in Marion. I had my "eye surgery" there - and would not be happy going some where else. This would be a very very inconvenience to me & other patients. And I am opposing this Certificate.

Thanks,
Bettie Murray



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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

WILLIAM JR WALKER

P O BOX 322

WEST FRANKFORT, IL 62896

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient ✓
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his ✓ experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

We have used the surgery center many times. My husband and I both have had cataract and eye lift surgries at this facility. We live near Thompsonville and are willing to travel this distance; however, we are 79 and 80 and are unable to go any further for help.

I have also gone to this facility for epiderals because it is latex free and I'm allegic to latex since it causes respiratory arrest in my cases.

William Walker
PO Box 322
W Frankfort IL 62896

Sincerely,

William and Shirley Walker
PO 322
West Frankfort, IL 62896

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
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Carmi
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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

RUIE KEENAN

116 WASHINGTON APT 211

ANNA, IL 62906

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Thank you for your support.

In response to the letter on the other side of this —

It would be very inconvenient for me to travel outside of the Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center) if I needed to have surgery. Marion is the best place for me to go.

Hopefully, I will not need to have any more surgeries — (had cataracts removed on both eyes 4/2001) and that when I need check-ups I can continually have them with you at Marion

Rose Keenan

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MARY BENTON
702 SOUTH HADFIELD
MARION, IL 62959

To Our Loyal Patients:

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The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

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To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

3/19/11

To:
Illinois Health Planning Board

Please Consider the Marion Eye Center buying the Southern Illinois Surgery Center. It is definitely needed here in Marion. I have had Surgery There and it was so helpful to be so close so my husband could stay with me. (& not have to travel out of town.) When you make your decision, please consider the patients needs first.

Thanks.

Mary Benton

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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KEVIN BARNES

126 OLK

ZEIGLER, IL 62999

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Thank you for your support.

I go to MARIONeye Center I will Not travel out of area

They Have good Surgeons here

Keep it IN

MARION IL

Mr Barnes

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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MARIETA LAUNIUS
908 N 14TH
HERRIN, IL 62948

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Marion Eye Center & Optical

It is very important to me as I don't have transportation to and from. My only way is the R.I.D.S. Bus Transit. I have no family here in town. My daughter has just passed away.

Dr Olk has been treating me for the past few yrs.

I've had surgery done here.

To me and many others it is not just a ~~convenience~~ convenience, but a necessity.

Dr Olk has helped me as I go toward losing my ~~sight~~ sight altogether.

Marieta R Launius

L
Ms. Marieta Launius
908 N 14th St.
Herrin, IL 62948

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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BESSIE MAYNOR

1866 PUMP HOUSE RD

MURPHYSBORO, IL 62966

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Thank you for your support. over →

We, Certainly oppose this Certificate, and we hope Dr. Ahmad goes through with his intent. Dr. Ahmad done my husbands surgery, and Dr. Artz done mine. They were wonderful. It sure would be a inconvience for us. I Cant understand why a non-phycian, non. healthcare entity would want to do this. We Seniors especially need this eye center to stay as it is for everyone. Good Luck in every way.

Bessie Maynor

Mrs. Bessie Maynor
1866 Pump House Rd.
Murphysboro IL 62966

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JANE STANSELL
951 WARGO LANE
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To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

I have M.S. I can not comfortably travel to Mt Vernon for eye surgery. Please make it available in Marion

Irene O Stansell

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
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Carbondale SIU
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HANNAH COLLINS

106 BOSWELL

MARION, IL 62959

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Thank you for your support.

"Deeer"

Marion Eye Center,

Yes, We Want The Surgery
Center To stay in Marion
It Would be inconvent for all
the senior Citizen in this area

Hannah Collins

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CHARLES COLLINS

106 BOSWELL

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Thank you for your support.

over

Marion Eye Center

We need the Surgery Center to stay in Marion. I have had surgery there and my wife and Mother also. It would put a hardship on all the senior citizens of the entire area. It would be a great loss to loose the surgery center

Charles Collins

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ALMEDA SANDERS

1401 S. 16TH ST APT. J-2

HERRIN, IL 62948

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1. - Inconvenience for the elderly to go out of town for eye care & surgery.

2. - Loss of Doctors & Nurses

3 - Need to keep here for money to stay here in our community.

I'm 95 years old & we need are Doctors here.

Signed

Almeda K. Sanders
1401 S. 16th apt. J2
Herrin, Il. 62948

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LUVEDA MCGHEE
583 CO RD 1050 E
NORRIS CITY, IL 62869

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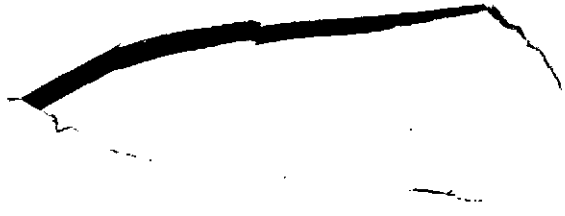
(over)

to the Marion eye center.
I Wish to thank the
Center for the eye Surgery
I had there.
Please Don't move it somewhere else
I'm old and I can't travel
some place else.

Thank You
Luveda McGhee



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DONALD HICKAM

222 NATURAL RIDGE RD

POMONA, IL 62975

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To Marion Eye Centers & Optical:

We would like to see the Surgery Center stay in Marion. & We agree with all the reasons you have listed PLUS Too many businesses & jobs are going out of our region, state and Country!

We wish you the best in this "Ordeal" and hope you can purchase it and keep it here.

Yours Truly

Donald Hickam

Virginia Hickam

Mary Hicks

patients of Marion Eye Center

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PHYLLIS PATTERSON
812 W WALNUT
CARBONDALE, IL 62901

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To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

(D Vet)

To whom it may concern:

I have been a patient of Dr Ahmad for over forty yrs. and would hate to see patients have to travel out of the area for service. I can no longer drive and would have to rely on such transportation due to Wet Macular Degeneration.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Patterson

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

ANGELINE CUSHMAN
Bickford Homes
~~496 W 6TH~~ 1920 W. Willow Knolls
Apt. 106
~~BENTON IL 62812~~ Peoria, IL 61614

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved.the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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- Patients having to travel outside the area
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- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

I moved to Peoria Il last July 27, 2010 to be near family. But the many years I lived in Benton and the many years I went to Marion Eye Center was a convenient place for me to go too as well as getting good treatment. It would be a disservice to the community if these dollars were not available to people of Southern Illinois who need help. Dr Ahmad should be able to purchase the Marion Eye Center.

Sincerely,
Angeline Cushman

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

INEZ FRYER

P.O. BOX 160

CUTLER, IL 62238

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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Thank you for your support.

Concerning Dr Amaro & the other doctors it is our concern about traveling to another place for these services, The Price of gas which most people can't afford, & being on a fixed income.

Don't they ever think about the inconvenience of the lower class people,

Earl & Inez Fryer

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

BARBARA MURRAY

504 WEST POPLAR STREET

WEST FRANKFORT, IL 62896

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

(over)

3/29/2011

I am writing in reply to this letter I have received. I have been coming to the Marion Eye Center for several years now. I am currently seeing Dr Ortiz. I would not like if I had to start over with a new Doctor I have been very pleased with the Marion Eye Center and would not want to see it change. I live in West Frankfort, IL and would not want to travel any further to see a Doctor or if I need any other eye care. I am very pleased where I am going and would not want to change.

Barbara J. Murray.

I hope something can be worked out so we won't lose the Marion Eye Center in Marion, IL.

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SONDRA THOMPSON
29 FOX HOLLOW DR
HARRISBURG, IL 62946

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

OVER

I've had eye problems and been going to Marion Eye for over 15 years. Also had surgery at the new place in Mt. Vernon. We could use a one closer ~~to~~ South. I'm am going on 75. Dont need to be driving a long way. Have to have a driver for my self

Yours Truly,
Sandra Thompson
29 Fox Hollow Dr.
Harrisburg, Il. 62946

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

WILMINIA ROSE

PO BOX 65

CAVE IN ROCK, IL 62919

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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Thank you for your support.

To whom it may Concern,

I am an 84 year old from Cane-In-Rock. Just getting to Harrisburg for eye care is very difficult. I can't drive there & am on oxygen. Many others in my community are in the same boat. We desperately need eye care, and cannot travel even farther for it. Our eyesight is what keeps us at home & caring for ourselves.

I do hope Marion Eye Center remains accessible to all of us in Hardin Co. who depend so much on it.

Wilmeria E. Rose

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

VIOLET WOOTEN

PO BOX 85

COLP, IL 62921

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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Thank you for your support.

To whom it may Concern. I am not much for writing letters but I think the Marion Surgery Center should stay in Marion with the Doctors here I sure would not want to go out of town to get eye care I'm not Driving a lot now and I sure would not go out of town to see and eye Doctor. I am 84 and also my husband is 88 and he can't drive me very much. I don't drive at night at all. also we need the jobs here in our Community. Its hard for older people to travel outside of town. I have been a patient of this place for years and Ish not travel out of town

Sincerely
Violet Wooten

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

MARTHA CLENDENIN

506 E.SCRANTON AVE.

PITTSBURG, IL 62974

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

To whom it may concern,

I had eye surgery @ Marion & was very pleased that I did not have to travel to St. Louis. Dr. Umana was wonderful. Dr. Ahmad has brought a very high level of eye care to SI & we need to keep it.

Martha Chandler
618-694-4375

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
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CAROLYN BETHEL

830 DENEAL RD

HARRISBURG, IL 62946

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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Thank you for your support.

(see over)

3-15-11

To whom It May Concern!

It is in my opinion that all the reasons listed are reason enough that the present surgeons may remain in the present facilities at Marion Eye Center -

I am definitely in opposition for a certificate be given by the Illinois Health Planning Board to the non physician - non - heathy care person or persons

Dr. Oak is my Doctor and I would be very unhappy if I had to change to another Doctor at any time -

Reasons: listed on reverse side -

Thank you for your attention to this matter -

Sincerely,

Carolyn Bethel
830 De Neal Rd
Harrisburg, Il 62946

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CANDACE HIPKINS
12885 N EGYPT SHORES DR
CREAL SPRING, IL 62922

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

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To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

March 20, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board,

As a person who has worn glasses and have had numerous eye problem issues throughout my life, I strongly oppose the Certificate for Need Exemption that has been applied for. Please do not let this happen.

Thank you,

Mrs. Candace A. Hopkins

Hopkins
12885 N. Egypt Shores Dr.
Coral Springs, FL
62922

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-35[illegible]

Carbo[illegible]
1-[illegible]615

1-[illegible]594-2220

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FERNIE HICKAM
912 N WASHINGTON APT 2
DUQUOIN, IL 62832

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To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

We need the Marion Eye Center in Marion for us elderly People who aren't able to travel further it is a Good center to us Please keep it here.

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

HELEN JONES

217 RED ROW APT A

MARION, IL 62959

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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Thank you for your support.

To whom it may Concern —

Please do not sell this facility to anyone for a non health care place. The people of this area really need our Marion Eye Center & do not want to have to travel a large distance for our physicians.

I would thank you very much for not selling it & taking it from here.

Yours Truly
Helen J. Jones

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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DELORES MYERS

1237 DAGNER ROAD

AVA, IL 62907

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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Thank you for your support.

This would be a inconvenient for most people since most of the people receiving these kind of treatments are senior citizens.
The problem of traveling farther and cost - Since a lot of these people are on fixed incomes - Maybe living alone

I have been seeing Dr Elk for a lot of years regarding my Macular degeneration. He sent me to Mt. Vernon for treatment - NO.

Delores Myers
1237 Wagner Rd.
Ava, Ill. 62907
618-426-3912

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

OPAL WYANT

1305 BAILEY LANE APT 152

BENTON, IL 62812

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support. I want Marion Eye center nowhere else no just Marion Eye Center

Over

Please Excuse My writing.
I don't want nothing to change.
I want Marion Eye center. Its the only place
I can go, I have no other way.)
Marion Eye center Is the only one! Please

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

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RONALD BROOKS

9480 BATTLEFORD RD

STONEFORT, IL 62987

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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5 • Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
6 • Unknown future of the surgery center
7 • Loss of jobs in our community
8 • Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

Over

To whom it may concern: March 16, 2011

We are writing to give our support to the Marion eye Centers & Optical facilities in the local level.

We are pleased that eyecare is convenient to our home. We go to the Harrisburg & Marion offices. My husband has glaucoma, & had recent cataract surgery & we are pleased with his care. I had a retina problem in 1976. & I saw Dr Olk in St Louis. If I should have need of any other retina surgery I would surely look to Dr Olk again. He has also treated my sister and friends of ours.

We're sorry that an outside non physician, non-health care entity is trying to buy the facility, which the eye Center operates.

We give our full support, & hope that this letter will help you in keeping quality eyecare in So Ill

Ronald M. Brooks &
Alice J. Brooks

For all of the 8 reasons on the other side are the reasons we're concerned.

Mrs Alice Brooks ex retired

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GEORGIA JOHNSON
390 MCDOWELL ROAD
MURPHYSBORO, IL 62966

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

Turn over the Page

To the Marion Center
and whomever it concerns,

Yes, I definately do believe we need a well supplied Place for our Physicians to operate for both the drs. & their Patients.

Wish I could attend but at this time no.

Hopefully this will be a successful meeting and all things will turn out for the very best for all

Sincerely

Mrs. Johnson

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

CYNTHIA SHANDS

2504 N 12TH

HERRIN, IL 62948

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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Thank you for your support.

3-18-11

To whom it may concern:

In regards to the letter received earlier this week, We the family of Cynthia Shands oppose the Sale & Relocation of the Marion Eye Center in Marion.

It would be a great inconvenience, as Cindy is handicapped & cannot Travel far.

In these hard times the loss of jobs and revenue to the area may be difficult to recoop.

Sincerely,

The family of Cynthia Shands

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April 15, 2011

Dear Patients,

As you may already know, my plans to purchase the surgery center where we do surgery here in Marion, not the office, were thwarted when a local attorney, Ronald Osman, went around me and negotiated a deal to purchase the very same surgery center I was in the process of buying. However, given the importance of ensuring there is access to quality healthcare in the community, this change of ownership must be approved by a state board called the Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

I am opposing this change of ownership and invite you to do the same if you believe, as I do, that this change of ownership would impair access to healthcare in Marion, rather than improve it or even maintain it. In deciding whether or not to oppose this project, I feel it is important for you to understand why I oppose the sale of Marion Surgery Center to Mr. Osman.

I do not trust Ronald Osman. I have had prior business dealings with Mr. Osman. He was, infact, my attorney. Despite being my attorney, he filed a lawsuit against me using the same information which he provided to me as my attorney, which was thrown out, but not before Mr. Osman was removed from the case by the Judge. There is an ethical rule for lawyers that basically says: you don't file lawsuits against your own clients. Mr. Osman did. Mr. Osman also took steps to buy this surgery center out from under me. His reputation for putting the best interests of the community speaks for itself – but I will also add that I believe a doctor's practice should be controlled by doctors – not lawyers – and should be focused on the best care for the patients.

It is difficult for me to say this, but if this change of ownership is approved, I will not continue to provide services at this surgery center. I am committed to provide care to you, my patients, and want to continue to provide access to quality healthcare at the surgery center near your home and in your community. However, I do not trust Ronald Osman and I cannot operate in the surgery center where he is the owner and in charge.

If you agree that this Change of Ownership would harm access to healthcare in Marion more than it would benefit it, please join me in opposing this project. Your written comments, typed or handwritten, should be sent to our address in the enclosed return envelope.

Yours truly,

Dr. Maqbool Ahmad

Dr. Ahmad should be sole owner of the Surgery Center.

Debbie Fuld 618-994-4065
P.O Box 56
Carrier Mills, IL
62917

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Yours truly,

Dr. Maqbool Ahmad

Dr Ahmad should be sole owner of the surgery center

618-926-4065

Chris Field
CHRIS FIELD
Box 56
Carrier Mills
IL 62917

14 March, 2011

To: Illinois Health Planning Board

It has come to our attention that Marion Surgery Center has been placed for sale and that Dr Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. has signed a letter of intent to purchase the facility. As you know Dr Ahmad and others have performed eye surgery at this facility for several years. Now an outside buyer, not related to the medical field, has requested a certificate of need. Why? Dr Ahmad and his staff are well qualified and have served the public in that facility for some time now and if he is required to move to another city it will be a great disadvantage for the people living in Southern Illinois as well as other areas. Marion is centrally located and Dr Ahmad and his group should be allowed first buyer status for this facility.

My friend, who is just now going through cataract surgery and we have to travel about 40 miles to Mt Vernon, IL for the procedure. She does not drive nor does she have a vehicle, I, if I am able, is her only source of transportation. Most of the surgery done in Marion is for seniors and going out of the area is almost impossible for many.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon L Patton and Virginia Hopkins
1202 East Boyton Street
PO Box 35
Marion, IL 62959

618-993-8549
jondot@frontier.com

3/12/11

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing to support the Marion Eye Center and oppose the certificate of need application to the Illinois Health Planning Board by a non-physician non-healthcare entity. This might affect me adversely in a number of ways including the following:

1. Inconvenein to me as a patient.
2. The possibility to have to travel outside of the area for eye care.
3. A lack of retina services needed on a daily basis in this area.
4. And the unknown future of the surgery center.

I am a Glaucoma Patient of Marion Eye Center & have been very satisfied by the doctors and support staff at a number of their local facilities.

Please join Marion Eye Center patients in your opposition to this certificate of need application to the Illinois Health Planning Board.

Sincerely,

Jon Geiger M.S.Ed., CDRS
Driver Rehabilitation Specialist
EDC/SIUC

03-25-11

Please know

When I lived up north my insurance comp had me going to a clinic owned by a investment group. At first it wasn't to bad. Then the good doctors were leaving, diabetic consultation disappeared. The eye doctor left and wasn't replaced. The place did close after being bought & sold about five times.

When Alexian Bros. Med. Cntr. bought it (about three years later) they found the file cabinets had been removed and X rays and medical record were strewn over the floor.

I believe the doctors care for their patients investment care about profit only.

Sincerely,

Arnold L. Michaels

Patient of Doctor Umana

To Whom It May Concern: 3-25-11

I have been a patient of Marion Eye Centers for several years. I have had surgery performed at the Marion Surgery Center. It would be very inconvenient for me to have to go elsewhere for surgery. It is very handy to have it so close. The local Doctors are experienced, so people like me go to them because we trust them. The Surgery Center is definitely needed. There are almost always a lot of patients there, with the economy as poor as it is, the local surgery center is needed to provide jobs & revanue for the community.

Sincerely,

Paul Farkas
4962 E. Mitchell Lake Dr.
Mulkeytown, IL 62865

March 15, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board,

I am writing in opposition to giving a certification of need to anyone other than the Marion Eye Center and Optical.

If sold to another I would have to travel to facilities outside the area, very inconvenient and the lack of services vital to this area on a daily basis. Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity.

Very sincerely,
Susan C Corben
1001 W. Sycamore
Carbondale, IL 62901

3/14/11

Marion Eye Center
Marion, IL. 62959

In regard to the Marion Surgery Center, I'm deeply opposed to a non-physician non-healthcare entity purchasing it.

I'm a widow, 87 years of age, with a fixed income. I must have transportation to Marion. I can't believe any entity is wanting to make me travel miles to get help.

I've been with these doctors at Marion Eye Center ever since they have been in practice in Marion.

Some entity purching the surgery center would be a loss of jobs for our community, a loss of Doctors, a loss of care, a loss of revenue which we need.

over

March 22, 2011

TO: Illinois Health Planning Board

In my opinoin it is disgraceful that you even consider selling SCA (Southern Illinois Surgery Center) to any individual or business other than The Marion Eye Centers. For many years MARION EYE CENTER has been an important part of your community.

My husband and I plus many members of our family have derived excellent care when surgery was needed both at SCA and MARION EYE CENTER. I have been a patient of Dr. Umana's for several years and would consider it a huge inconvience to travel to elsewhere if surgery is needed in the future.

Joy L. Dunlap

Joy L. Dunlap

Zeigler, IL

[redacted]

Joy Dunlap
211 Station St.
Zeigler, IL 62999-1259

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

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1-618-826-5413

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Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D. • R. Joseph Olk, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Timothy Blankenship, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D.
Dolly Campbell, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D
Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Rachel Shewmake, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D. • Emily Smith, O.D.
Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

HELEN WADDINGTON

955 VILLA CT APT 181

CARBONDALE, IL 62901

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

I live here close by at Berry Living on Chautauqua St here in Carbondale Ill and there are over 100 People living here so I Hope you all stay Close by Thank You Helen Waddington

Thank you for your support.

+ Pray

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

JAMES PERRYMAN

18475 HWY 34

THOMPSONVILLE, IL 62890

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

I James Perryman Want the Marion Eye Center to stay. I'm a 92 year Old I'm not able to travel. Thank you James Perryman

March 14, 2011
8450 Valley View Rd
Marion, Il 62959

Marion Eye Center
PO Box 1178
Marion, Il 62959

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing concerning the possible purchase of the Eye Center by non-health care persons. My Husband had a stroke in 2005 that went to his right eye. Dr. Umana tried unsuccessfully to save his sight in that eye. He later had several procedures done by Dr. OIK to relieve the pain. He later developed a cataract in his left eye and is now seen semi annually by Dr. Umana for that condition. We are both in our seventies and I do all the driving. I do not drive out of Marion. It would be such an inconvenience to travel out of town, even if only twice yearly, for us. Also, I know that the Eye Center has many employees that would be greatly effected. Our town can not afford to lose any jobs or tax revenue.

Please know that we love our physician and donot wish to change any part of the present situation. We support you whole-heartedly.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Harmon Davis

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

I THINK THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO CLOSE OR MOVE THE MARION EYE CENTER US PEOPLE THAT HAVE EYE PROBLEMS HAVE RECEIVED THE VERY BEST OF CARE THERE, I CANT THINK OF ANY REASON WHY ANY ONE WOULD WONT TO TAKE A CHANCE WITH SOMEONE ELSE'S EYE SIGHT, OR INTERUPT THE TREATEMENT WE ARE RECEIVING THERE. IT IS HARD ENOUGE FOR US TO FIND OUR WAY AROUND AS IT IS, SO LET WELL ENOUGH ALONE, AND LEAVE MARION EYE CARE CENTERS WHERE IT IS LET IT KEEP HELPING PEOPLE IN THIS AREA WITH EYE TROUBLE.

A WORRIED EYE
PATIENT FROM MARION
EYE CENTERS.

George T. Parrish

GEORGE PARRISH
703 EAST 3 ST
METROPOLIS, IL
62960

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

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MARION EYE CENTER

Maqbool Ahmad, M
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D
Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Mic
Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert

None

Mildred Stapleton
10919 Saraville Rd
Marion IL 62959

MILDRED STAPLETON phone (618) 982-2561 Birth Date 5-8-28

10919 SARAVILLE RD

MARION, IL 62959

I do not drive and a lot of time I have no way going anyplace.

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

6 Dogwood Lane
Herrin, Illinois
March 12, 2011

Gentlemen:

I am writing in support of the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center by Dr. Ahmad of the Marion Eye Center. I have been a patent of the Marion Eye Center for over twenty years, and have had eye surgery at the Marion Surgery Center. I have very pleased with the quality of service at both facilities.

If the requested certificate of need is approved, surgery would become less convenient and more expensive due to lack of facilities in the local area. Also, the area will not have the retinal service it needs.

The Marion Surgery Center has been a stable entity in this area. Purchase by Dr. Ahmad will continue this fine relationship with its clientele. Denial of the certificate of need is in the best interest of the communities served by the Marion Eye Center.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Edwin H. Tresnak

Edwin H. Tresnak

To Whom this may Concern:

I oppose this Certificate, for it would be very inconvient for me at my age, if I had to travel out of the area, which would be impossible.

Dr. Alt has started my eye treatment and I would like to continue with him in the area as my Dr.

Hazel Baldwin

March 14, 2011

I am writing this letter in support of Marion Eye Center. We are both patients there. We hope that the Eye Center remains in Marion. It is more convenience to us. It would be difficult for us to travel outside the area due to other health problems. We both also have had eye surgery at the Center. I would like to keep the Center here so that there wouldn't be loss of jobs and loss of revenue for our area. We both have several visits a year due to eye problems. We are pleased with the service and treatment we have had at the Eye Center.

Sincerely,
Lela Rector

Orval L Rector

Sincerely,
Vince Reed
Jane Reed

3/15/11

Marion City Council

I once had to go catch a bus & ride miles for eye surgery. Being older it was extremly painful to travel so far on that bus. And that was after getting up very early. I had had to go pick up my friend the night before & she had to stay over nite, get up way before daylight then ride that long trip too.

Why should southern IL be denied the more convenient services enjoyed in up state. We trust and appreciate Drs Ahmad Dr. Ortiz, & Dr Almana and are used to their services, & just when they are ready to bring in other qualified professionals, it is a let down to their patients and to the economy of our region.

Is this another case of treachery for gain and/or political purposes.

Lord help us.

Evelyn M. Martinez

Evelyn M Martinez
115A W Church St
Harrisburg IL 62946-1652

Marion Eye Centers

We do not want the Marion Eye Center to change.

We do not want the non-physician managed health care entity to go forward.

Mr & Mrs Jones

Benton, IL.

MURPHYSBORO, IL
MARCH 15, 2011

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO SUPPORT DR. AHMAD IN HIS EFFORT TO PURCHASE THE MARION SURGERY CENTER. DR. ORTIZ IS MY EYE DOCTOR AND SURGEON. HE DID BOTH OF MY CATARACT SURGERIES AT THE MARION CENTER, WHICH WAS CONVENIENT FOR ME. MY WIFE HAD CATARACT SURGERY 3-8-11, AND SHE HAD TO GO TO MT. VERNON FOR DR UMANA TO PREFORM IT. WE ARE 77 YEARS OLD AND IT IS VERY INCONVENIENT FOR US TO TRAVEL THAT FAR.

Curtis E. Brown
1953 PUMP HOUSE RD.
MURPHYSBORO, IL 62966

(618) 684-2604

Mr. Curtis E. Brown
1953 Pump House Rd.
Murphysboro, IL 62966

To Whom It May Concern:

My Mother brought this letter to me to read so I am writing in "Memory" of my Father Oscar Conner you benefited from the local Surgeons. He was able to have this cataract surgery done locally thankfully. Due to his health, he probably would not been able to travel a long distance to get this done.

Then thankfully, I too had the same surgery done in December 2010 & the other eye in January 2011. I am so thankful that Dr Ahmad (sorry if I did not spell this correctly) was there thank God. I now feel like a teen ager again. To be able to see again without using my glasses is a miracle.

The only thing I can say, is if this local attorney is trying to get something moved from this area, this can only mean a financial gain to him as well. How said that the money means more to him than the comfort and ~~care~~ of local ~~as patrons of the~~ Marion Eye Center..

I can not attend the meeting as I will be working, but my vote and in memory of my wonderful Father, I hope you plow over the "LOCAL Guy."

Sincerely,
Tina Melvin
& The Late Oscar Conner

To whom it concern:

I am opposing this purchase and Certificate of Illinois Health Planning Board. Marion Eye Center has been in an excellent location for its Patients. Being a patient I wouldn't want to go to another Eye Center for surgery. Marion Eye Center has the best facility for surgery. I fully support the surgeons and staff of Marion Eye Center 100 per Cent. It is very important to this community.

Your Truly
Melvin E. Smith

From Howard E. Dixon
3886 Route 148
Carbondale, Ill.
62902

To The Marion Eye Center
of Marion, Ill.

I hope the Marion Eye Center gets to purchase the surgery Center I have been serviced with Marion eye cent Sena Mr. Ahmad opened an office in the Carbondale Profesinal Building.

Reason

Marion Eye Center is convient as I work in Marion.

Its close to where I live. 15 min. drive.

A member of our family has to travel a 2 1/2 hr. trip for eye service.

It would be convenient to have surgery here.

3-25-2011 Howard E. Dixon

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing this letter to support Dr. Ahmad in the purchase on the Marion Surgery Center. My mother is a long time patient of Dr. Olk and has also been seen by other doctors in this facility. She has had numerous surgeys in Marion. We already have over a thirty mile drive, and with the price of gasoline it is very hard on people to have to drive a long distance for care. The doctors at Marion Eye Center are excellent doctors. They have kept my mother from going blind, as she has diabetes very bad. She has gotten excellent care from Dr. Olk and Dr. Ahmad over the years. We would also hate to see all the jobs that might also be lost. We truely hope that Dr. Ahmad is successful in purchasing the surgery center for the sake of all the patients and staff that depend on the quality care and the jobs that Marion Surgery Center provides.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Shumaker (patient)
Terry Bramlet (daughter)

Clyde Ramage
2001 Creekwood
Carbondale Il. 62902

To Whom it Concern.

To my understanding the Marion Surgery Center has come up for sale and that Dr. Ahmad has signed a letter of intent to ~~purpa~~ purchase so we as a whole community and southern Illinois can continue to be provided this excellent care we are use to in southern Illinois. If this is not allowed and some non-physician run healthcare entity undermines this purpose think of inconvience of the patients, the lack of retina services. As well as the loss of jobs and the list could go on an on. Lets show Dr. Ahmad our ~~support~~ and let him go forward in his endeavor and wish him and the current staff best wishes. as they continue to provide the region with excellent car. Thanks

Clyde Ramage 2001 Creekwood
Carbondale Il. 62902

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regard to an attorney in Marion who has tried to undermine the purchase of the Southern Illinois Surgery Center by the Marion Eye Center.

If he succeeds, it will force the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center to go elsewhere to perform surgery.

This will cause great inconvenience to the patients, especially those who need their services on a daily basis, such as the retina services.

We will greatly appreciate anything that can be done to ensure the SCA stays where it is now.

Sincerely,

Charles & Wanda Huite

Charles Shukites
300 West 8th St
Johnston City, Il
62951

March 24, 2011

Marion Eye Centers
P.O. Box 1178
Marion, Il 62959

To Whom It May Concern:

I regret that I will be unable to attend the Illinois Health Planning Board hearing on Tuesday April 5, 2011, regarding your intention to purchase the Southern Illinois Surgery Center; however, I am writing to express my wholehearted support for your endeavor.

Speaking from my own personal vision problems and the lack of a conveniently located center with experienced retina surgions are some of the reasons that I have no useable vision in my left eye. Therefore, I believe your expansion of retina services to the Marion area is vital.

Charles Shukites

3-17-11

To Whom It May Concern:

I AM WRiting a letter of opposition ABOUT The purchase And Certificate of Need By NON-Healthcare individuals Concerning the MARION Surgery Center. Dr. AhmAD And his STAFF has run the Center FOR years. Haven't we lost enough good doctors in our Area! I personally have relied on Dr. Ahmad and his Staff for My EYE CARE FOR Many years and so did My parents. LACK OF SERVICES, INCONVENIENCE, Travel, LOSS OF JOBS, and loss of REVENUE for the COMMUNITY ARE All Things To Consider. Dr. AhmAD and His Staff have Certainly Brought Services AND Community Pride to the ENTIRE Area. LETS Try to Keep THAT.

Sincerely,
Dianna Russell
P.O. Box 103
Vergennes, IL 62994

Dianna Russell
PO Box 103
Vergennes, IL 62994

3-16-11

To Whom It May Concern;

I Bettie L. Reed am writing this letter on behalf of My Brother Mr. Fred Gentry, it would be a great inconvenience for him because he has loss sight in left eye due to diabetes and travel with him back and forth to his appointment, he won't go to his doctors appointments, if I am not with him, he feel insecure with me, we have always been very close, I am just 1yr ~~and~~ and 4 ~~month~~ months ~~old~~ older than him, He was born 8-2-45 and I was born 4-2-44, My mother gave us twin ~~names~~ names Freddie L. Gentry and Bettie Lee Harris we are the eldest of 8 children. So I would love to keep him going to Dr. Olk, because he has really helped me with my brothers eye sight. He is doing all he can to save my brother's eyesight.

Thanks

Mrs. Bettie L. Reed

~~For my Brother Mr. Fred Gentry~~

Mr. Fred L. Gentry

March 15, 2011

To Whom It May Concern —

I have been going to the Marin Eye Center for the past 25 years. I sustained a very serious eye injury and at that time had to travel to St Louis to receive the care I needed due to the lack of this service in our area. What a relief to my wife and I when Marin Eye Center came to the area. If Marin Eye Center were to close it would not only be inconvenient, but would cause job loss, and revenue to the Marin area. Dr. Ortiz and his staff have provided outstanding care the past 25 years. If it's not broke why fix it?

Sincerely,

Mike Sannes

March 21, 2011

To Whom It may concern,

I am very upset and sadden about the possibility of having to go out of town, for the services I have been receiving at the Marion Eye Center. Dr. Ahmad and his staff have provided me with worry Free Surgery's and Follow up care. I'm a senior citizen and it would be a big hardship to have to travel out of town for these services. I feel the lack of retina services in this area will definetly have a adverse impact on people getting the procedures done they need. Also, another very important Fact is the loss of Jobs and revenue in our community, which we cannot afford to lose. Please take these Facts into consideration when making any decisions that will have a GREAT IMPACT on our lives and community. Thank you

Sincerely
Jean Walker

Jean Walker
PO Box 217
Energy IL 62933

03-19-2011

Dear Marion Eye Center

I would like to start by telling you that I cannot travel a long way to see my doctor. I cannot afford the money that it would cost and I don't have any other way to get there.

Also, it would be an inconvenience for me and all of the other patients.

Sincerely,
Patsy L Walker

03-19-2011

Dear Marion Eye Center,

I would like to start by telling you that I cannot travel a long way to see my doctor. I cannot afford the money that it would cost and I don't have any other way to get there.

Also, it would be an inconvenience for me and all of the other patients

Sincerely,
Ronda S. Hook

3-15-11

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I BELIEVE THAT DR. AHMAD BE ALLOWED TO PURCHASE MARION SURGERY CENTER. THE CENTER IS NEEDED FOR THIS AREA. A LOT OF THE CUSTOMER, WHO ARE OLDER NEED A SURGERY CENTER CLOSE IN THE AREA. THE NON-SURGERY CENTER COULD BE OPENED ANYWHERE IN ANY CITY. CUSTOMERS WHO NEED SURGERY FOR THEIR EYES DON'T WANT TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF AREA, THEY MAY HAVE TO DEPEND ON DOCTORS THEY UNFAMILIAR WITH TO HAVE THE SERNICE THEY NEED.

WE AS EYE PATIENTS NEED THE SURGERY CENTER IN MARION!

THANK YOU.

SINCERELY

Richard Phillips

PREPARED BY	
DATE	

3-16-11

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in support of the Marion Surgery Center remaining at it's current location in Marion. Without this location patients would be forced to travel a great distance. When you are dealing with your vision, it is important to be able to have a close site where a doctor or surgeon is available. Losing this location would also mean a loss of jobs and revenue for Marion.

Please allow Marion to remain at its current location.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Sitton

49 Gold Drive

I have a hard time getting some one to take me to Marion eye center for my check up and for eye surgery.

I hope they don't have to move the eye center and surgery center. It will make it harder on me.

Janet Baldwin

1306 N. State St.
Marion IL 62959

March 15, 2011

To Whom it may Concern:

My husband has diabetic retinaopteity and has totally gone blind several times. Dr Olk has preformed surgery several times on him at the surgery center in Marion and restored his vision. We have been grateful there was a surgery center in Marion that we could get to quickly.
Dr Amahad has also performed 2 surgeries on him - cataracts. It was great to have the surgery Center so close.
Marion needs this center!
Dr Amahad also did cataract surgeries on both of my parents in past years.
Please allow the Center to stay in Marion so that surgeons in Marion have access to them.

Sincerely,

Gayle Lee

I'm wrightling in regards to the Marion Eye Center. Me and my family have had good service from the Marion eye Center, I'm speaking on the behalf out sourtern Ill - People have a hard time going out of town, it would be a great hard ship on all of us. So many living on fixed income - I believe it would be a great hard ship for the people. I take care of people in there home they don't drive and have to depend on their family or care givers that can't take them out of State or in long distance, so I hope you can keep are Marion Eye Center surgery open, and are dr's that we trust with are eye's.

Sincerly Virginia Metzler
&
The Johnson
family.

March 12, 2011

To Marion Eye Center:

In reference to your letter there are several things that concern me. The inconvenience and possibly more traveling and I would follow my doctor if at all possible because he has doctored me for about six years for macular degeneration. I wouldn't have the trust in a non-health-care entity as I have in my eye care doctor now. I think we need the service in the location it's in for our daily needs and I have used it the last two days myself. The state of Illinois doesn't need to lose more jobs.

Sincerely,
Albert D. Gray

To whom it may concern.

As a lifelong resident of Marion Illinois and a patient of the local Marion Eye center, I am concerned about the possable loss of the eye center. For what it is worth I want to voice my support for the wonderful people running our eye center.

Thank you
Kenneth Pauley

March 16th
2011

To the person selling the Surgery Center in Marion, Il.

I understand that the Marion Surgery Center is for sale, and the Marion Eye Center would like to buy it, for their Drs to do surgery in it, they have Retina, Cataracts, and other things they treat and do Surgery on.

My husband has a stroke in his eye and Dr Ahmad is giving Laser and Shots to clear the blood in the vein behind the eye, and it is getting better. If he had to go farther for the treatments it would be a hardship because gas is so high. and lots of people are just like us.

Marion Eye Center has lots of people come to their offices for treatments. Its a shame for them to have to go farther.

I'm sure a lot of people are like me and shop in Marion while were there, and I wouldn't be coming if it wasn't for the Eye Center.

I know if they continue to do surgery there the people will be coming there for surgery and treatments, we go to the place the Drs go!

My husband and myself think lots of the Doctors, nurses and staff. If they have to go elsewhere for the surgery a lot of the help will probably be layed off because they have to travel further to their jobs.

Sincerely

Charles Paul and Betty Phelps
700 N. Church St. Harrisburg, Il. 62946

Dear Marion Eye Center

As a long time patient of your Doctors, with Dental Surgeries, I am very concerned about the need for a Surgery Center there in Marion.

It is an inconvenience to most patients to travel out of the area for Surgery, especially the older people and the disabled.

If We have a Surgery Center in Marion, there is enough patients with Retina eye problems, Cataracts Ect. to keep the Surgery busy.

It is a very much needed Center.

I also believe that the decision and ownership of the Surgery Center should not be made by someone who has no part in healthcare. It should be made by those with some experience with healthcare and Concern for the many eye care patients of the area.

We cannot afford to lose this much needed Center.

Sincerely

Billy Deming

Tonny Crim
124 E 3rd St Apt 2R
Metropolis, IL

3-16-11

The Marion Surgery Center provides an invaluable service to the residents of southernmost Illinois. The distances travelled by many patients are considerable. Many of the patients receive medicare or medicaid are in the low income level. Placing this service in the possesion of an unknown entity would essentially put this sight-saving care beyond our reach.

The Southernmost region of ILL is in desperate need of the jobs and medical expertise that center attracts to this area.

The Marion Surgery Center plays an indispensable part in our healthcare system and economy.

3/13/11

Marion Eye Centers and Optical
Marion, Illinois

I do not approve of the selling of the Marion Surgery Center to a non-physician healthcare entity. This would mean an inconvenience to the patient – they would have to travel outside the area. There would be a loss of eye procedure testing – a loss of jobs in our community and a loss of revenue for the community. I do not approve of this action.

Yours truly
Rita S. Cox

To whom it may concern: 3/16/11

Recently I had an aneurysm in my right eye. I knew not to go to the ER for they would tell me to see my eye doctor, of course it was the week-end, Monday morning I saw Dr. Kalathar and he took tests and knew it had to be seen in Marion by Dr. Olk., Dr. Olk did laser surgery right then. My eye is much better, but in April I have to have more surgery to clear up my vision

From Cobden to Carbondale to Marion + back home thank God I didn't have to go to St. Louis or Cape, with gas the price it is. Do you think these are good enough reasons for a lawyer to take over and force them to move?

Those Doctors see more patients than he does, Lawyers are done a dozen and take forever to do a job.

The are twenty people in my family, who at sometime have visited Marion Eye Centers, we were taken care of. Don't move + remember all the reason to stay where you are.

Mr & Mrs Roy Basler Jr
585 Redbud Ln
Cobden IL 62920

Mrs Shirley Basler

TO Whom it may Concern;

I am a disabled elderly Citizen and a patient of the, Mt. Vernon location, Marion Center. My caregiver is not allowed to take me out of town for any reason, and therefore I would not be able to make a surgery out of town. I would have to switch to a new eye doctor, and I would rather keep mine. Please do not do this, think of the disabled, the elderly, or those who are both as I myself am.

Thanking you in advance

Anna L Cathers

March 14 - 2011

To: Whom it may concern,
I'm a patient of Marion Eye Center & Optical. It Would be Inconvenience for me to travel outside the area for care. Marion Eye Center has giving me excellent care. My Family and Friends use Marion Eye Center, The Surgeons and Staff are Wonderful. So think that a non-physician non healthcare, take over, When We have a Great Eye Center, We dont need any Job lost in our Community, or loss of revenue.

Geraldine Llewellyn

Geraldine Llewellyn
45 Water Tower Trlr. Ct.
Anna, IL 62906

March 19, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I would appreciate it if Dr. Ahmad would be permitted to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. I'm 74, have leukemia & am diabetic. My husband is 78, has to be on an oxygen tank, around the clock, & is also diabetic. We have no one to rely on except each other. We have been his patients, and the Eye Center's for about twenty years.

It would be inconvenient for us to travel further & could be impossible. When we moved here about 24 years ago, the eye doctor that I had gone to since 5th grade, advised me that he recommended Dr. Ahmad.

There seems to be more people moving to this area. Dr. Ahmad, the Marion Eye Center and its staff are assets to Marion. Allowing him to purchase the Marion Surgery Center would be a plus for the City of Marion.

Bob and Mildred Gill
12230 Trinidad Terrace
Marion, Ill. 62959

To Whom it may concern:

I got a letter about my doctor trying to buy a building. That would be great he would still be right here in town. When I had my eye surgery the tube had come out and since he is right here in town I just drove over there and I got right in. If I would have to leave town every time that happens I would have to change docs and I like our doc.

Mendi Hester
9065 Shermandr Apt 1
Marion, IL
62959
618-579-9175

3-15-11

Dear Concern,

I hope you all not have to sale I Know it hard time if you move People won't go far away for Surgery - Please stay in Marion I Know I won't go out of town or state if I have Surgery in the future. I hope you all get this matter work out with out my help you all got 24 Center People county on you be there win we or eed it this is frist time I have to write a letter to you

Your truely
Jane Todd

March 12th. 2011

To Whom it may Concern,

I was a patient at the Marion Eye Center. A cataract was removed from my right eye, which restored my vision and has me to see clearly.

The staff at Marion Eye Center was very professional, & I personally feel that it should remain as it is. The location is convient for those who may not have their own transportation, such as myself.

The follow up service was good. I appreciate the over all concern and successful surgery that I received at the Marion Eye Center.

Sincerely

Thomas White

19 March 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

We, the Southern Illinois community want the Marion Surgical Eye Center to remain as a Facility for eye surgery. It is a central location for many areas around Southern Illinois, Kentucky, and Indiana.

Many patients in the community are elderly and unable to travel a long distance. We also need the employment in the area.

Sincerely,

Etta A. Robinson

To

Dear Sirs:

I am a patient of the Marion Eye Center. I do not wish them to leave as it would cause a great inconvenience, revenue, and time. I believe many of the patients would not continue with their eye care if these doctors were to leave our town.

Sincerely,

S Ramey

To The Doctors and Surgeons of Marion Eye Centers. It would be really hard For us To Travel outside of Marion For Treatment. We are SENIORS and couldNT Travel that far. We hope all The Surgeons get To Stay at Marion. These Eye Dr's really Know what They're doing. We would like For Them all To Stay where They are.

Thank You
Myrtle M. Lawson

Myrtle M. Lawson
985 Sugar Creek Rd.
Boreville, IL. 62939.

Ret. George P. Shovan
P.O. 91
VALIER, IL 62891
Phone
724-2140

3-18-11

To Whom it May Concern:

The loss of the MARION eye Surgery FACILITY, Whould Be a TERRIABLE thing to Happen IN OUR AREA OF MARION.

DR. Ahmad is AN Outstanding Surgeon, And He HAS Assembled A Very PROFESSIONAL STAFF!!
This Very Critacle to OUR AREA And All the Wonderful Service That Serves This AREA.
Dr. Ahmad Saved me FROM going Blind, And So MANY Other People I KNOW, HAVE Been Served FOR There Vision Perfectly.
We TOTALLY Need This Surgical Center And it would Be A Dam Shame IF City OF MARION Would Loose This Service.
Please Let DR. Ahmad Purchase THIS FACILITY!!!
We Need This IN OUR AREA.
We ARE All getting OLDER & CANNOT TRAVEL Long distance!!!

Resp. George P. Shovan

Mar 19- 2011

Marian Lyn Carter

Due to a previous commitment I will be unable to attend the April 5th meeting.
I certainly hope your Surgeons will not be forced to preform their Surgery elsewhere
We as many of your patients are elderly and the additional travel would be a tremendous hardship.

Sincerely
Jerold Smith

To Whom This May Concern DATE: 3.21.2011

I have been a patient of Marion Eye Centers & Optical for many years and it will be a huge inconvenience for the surgery center in Marion to close. I along with other patients, would have to drive further. Or even find a new facility with new doctors and staff. The thought of getting acquainted and comfortable with an eye doctor when you have one you like and trust isn't very thrilling. I am appalled by what this local attorney is doing, and hope he/she is stopped and that the surgery center remains open and Marion Eye Centers & Optical are able to purchase the building.

Sincerely
Phyllis Gipson

Phyllis Gipson

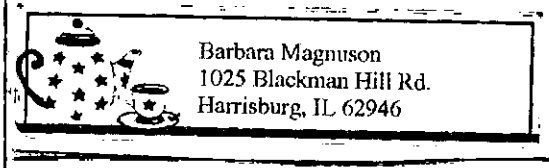
abs www.allbystudents.com

March 19, 2011

To whom it May Concern:

I oppose the sale of Marion Eye Center to the non-Heath care entity. It is very important to me to see my Dr. Ortiz remain in Marion. I'm a Senior Citizen and do not wish to travel out of town for services. I have been a patient of Dr Ortiz for many years. I will not patronize any new non-physician person that comes in this area.

Sincerely



Barbara Magnuson
1025 Blackman Rd
Harrisburg, IL 62946

March 15/2016

To Whome it Concern:

I ~~co~~ cannot see why in the world you would want to turn a Surgery Center out of Marion; that has been there 25 year.

This makes it hard on us old people having to go to Mt Vernon for Surgery. Just like myself having to go to Mt Vernon March 17/2016. I am 77 yr old and my wife is 68. having you put us on the road when we could have went to Marion. I live in Goreville Ill Eight miles from Marion or 46 miles to Mt Vernon. I know there are a lot of people at my age going to have to do the same.

I would like for you to consider the facts befor you turn them out of ~~Town~~ town,

Clayton J Harrison

Clayton J. Harrison
45 Eagle Claw Pt
Goreville, IL 62939-3176

Dear Sirs:

For some years now I have been going to Marion Eye Center for my eyes, I have Diabetes and I have to have my eyes checked.

I live in Anna Illinois And I have my glasses made for me in Anna, but I have to go to Marion Or three or ~~four~~ times a year to have my eyes checked.

I am 91 year old And I have no way of getting to Marion. My Daughter & Son in law takes me. I drove myself for years, but now I have to have help.

I don't know what all do if they move the Marion Eye Center.

Louise Kelley
311 Lincoln St
Anna Ill. 62906

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing this letter in regards of the surgery center. I had my Cataract Surgery performed by Dr. Ahmad and he done a wonderful job. I was very pleased with the results. I really don't know this lawyer who is trying to buy the center, but I think this is very unfair to a wonderful person as Dr. Ahmad, and I will do whatever it takes to help the good Dr. stay in business. This place has helped young and old with keeping their eye sight and I really wouldn't want to trust my sight to a stranger. Please do not sell to Osman.

Signed,

Betty Carrington

321 Crestview Ln
Carbondale, IL 62901

To the Planning Board of Surgery,

It has been brought to my attention that an attorney in Marion, Osman wants to purchase the Surgery Center.

Dr. Ahmad is a excellent doctor that has cared for my family eyes for several years. And we are very satisfied with his high standard of service, and care.

We believe that it is in the best interest that the planning board rule in Dr. Ahmad favor for the sale of Marion Surgery Center.

Thank You,

Vera T. Gibbs

Vera Gibbs
2 Wedgewood Court
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Rev. Larry J. Rayford
810 Tippit St.
Carterville, Il
62966

To Surgery Board,

I am one of Dr. Ahmad patients. His work ethics, and performance speaks highly for itself.
I don't understand why an Iranian Osman would want to purchase a surgery eye center. Therefore, it is my hope that the board will side in Dr. Ahmad's behalf to buy the surgery center.

Thank You

Rev Larry J Rayford

Mary Cobb
323 N. Williams St.
Murphysboro, IL
62966

Board of Surgery,

I have been a patient of Dr. Ahmad for years now, and i trust Dr. Ahmad's service and character. The surgery center should be run by a medical doctor, instead of a lawyer. My hope is that Dr. Ahmad can continue to provide excellent service in this area to people who trust and appreciate his work ethic.

Thank You
Mary Cobb

To: The Marion Eye Center Board

It has come to my attention that Marion Surgery Center is for sale. I oppose the purchase of this center by an attorney who would not give the care for the center, its patients, and its doctors the same caring way doctors would care for it.

Therefore I am requesting the board to consider the sell to Marion Eye Center where care of patients would be regarded top priority!

Sincerely,

Katie Rawson
141 Country Club Rd.
Carbondale, IL 62903

(618) 684-8385

Naja Kennedy
606 E. Snider
Carbondale, IL 62901

To whom it may Concern:

I have recently been informed that the Marion Surgical Center is up for purchase. I was also made aware that Attorney Osman is planing on purchasing the Center. I feel that his purchase of the Center will not be in the best interest of the patients nor the community, especially since he does not have a medical background. Since physicans are providing the service, I suggest that physicans should also be the purchasee of the Marion Surgical Center.

Thank you for your consideration,

Naja Ke

Don't sell the surgical care center to the lawyer. We need medical and We don't need anouther law firm.

LaMontae Of D. Westley
1400 N. Illinois ave. #137 Lots
678-203-1056 text only

April 2, 2011

Attention please,

I am writting to express my concern concerning the sale of Surgical Center to a attorney - I am shocked by such a idea. Please remember the pupls of our communitys who are already affected by budget cuts and losses. We ask you to reconcider this as we are much helped by Dr. Ahmed and the servie provided daily by Marion Eye Center.

Thank,
Gina Stewart
700 S. Lewis Ln
Apt 702
Carbondale IL
62901

To

Illinois Health Planning Board

RE – Marion Surgery Center

Please do not take this Center out of the hands of Dr Ahmad + his fellow surgeons.

It would force me + many others I know to travel greatly added miles + deprive us of the presence, close by, of a group of capable + experienced doctors / surgeons.

It would be a huge loss to our community.

Kenneth D. Koenig

Ken Koenig
810 W. Kennicott
Carbondale, IL 62901

3-15-11

To Whom This May Concern:

Please be advised that my husband and myself have been patients of Dr. Ortiz for many, many years. We have both had to have different retina surgeries done.

As our work places changed insurances we were always able to count on the Marion Eye Center for accepting our new policies.

Being able to have all our needs met thru one facility each time has been very helpful. It would be hard on our budget to have to travel to another area for our services we require.

We hope you allow the Marion Eye Center to purchase the facility they have used for over 25 years.

We personally, would not use the services of a new health care service were it to take Marion Eye Care Center in Carbondale.

Charles M. Deaton
Lysbeth Ann Deaton

Sparta, IL 62286

Marion eye center,

You, and the surgeon and all staff done a great job.

I really a appreciate you all. By the way my eye sight has been great. I just need reading glasses not for driving with that's great. Im so glad, I choose all of you. Great job.

your patient "2010"

Alana Majors

"3-18-11"

ALANA Major
401 E Webster
Benton IL 62812

March 26, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I SEE DOCTOR GEORGE ORTIZ AND IT'S convenient to have him see me and it's great location & it's easy for me.

My best Regards
George Haege
George Haege

April 2, 2001

To whom it may Concern;

I have been a patient of Marion Eye Center for quite awhile. I always go there for my eye checkups and glasses. It would be a shame for an Attorney to buy the Surgery Center to practice law when the Marion Eye Center would be better qualified to own the Building. (After all it is already a clinic.)

Marion Eye Center need new places for them to open practices. I remember when the marion eye Center had to shut down its Marion years ago. It would be good for the community to have a variety of places to go for checkups. The Marion Eye center has a long standing of renown and so has Dr. Ahmad. I wish he could purchase the Surgery Center to set up practice his trade.

He is a good doctor and I will continue to support him in this endeavor.

Thank you

Jo Ellen Hanna

APT 603
700 S. LEWIS LN
CARBONDALE IL 62901

April 2, 2011

To whom this may concern

I have been going to the Marion Eye Center As long as I was away from home while in College. DR. Ahmed has been my eye care Doctor and he has help me through my studies By Providing great eye care services for me as well as the Rest of the my family when we could not Due for our Selves without NO Insurence. He has Rana great Eye Care Center Thanks to him (the poor) me & family can See.

Thanks

Mrs. Catherine Lewis
300 S. Marion
Apt 502 Carbondale, IL
62901

This is very inconvient to the patients as well as the doctors.
I wish you would consider the patients on this matter.

NAME: Carol Green
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 652
Murphysboro, Il. 62966
PHONE NUMBER: 618-521-4316

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Flora
1-618-662-3202

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
1-800-344-7058

McLeansboro
1-618-643-2650

Metropolis
1-800-344-7058

Mt. Vernon
1-618-244-2777

Murphysboro
1-618-565-1405

Nashville
1-618-327-3900

Pinckneyville
1-618-357-2020

Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vandalia
1-618-283-7100

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-6181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Faisel Ahmad, M.D. • Omar Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • Micah Brasel, O.D. • Dolly Campbell, O.D William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Rachel Shewmake, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D. • Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

EUNICE LAND
4775 LICK CREEK RD
BUNCOMBE, IL 62912

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

For all the above,

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

March 16, 2011

Dear Sirs:

My husband, Mike Rawson, and myself, Gail Rawson, have been seeing Dr. Ortiz for many years and appreciate being able to see a physician with his expertise so close to where we reside. My elderly mother, Neva Isbell, has been a patient for many years with both Dr. Ortiz and Dr. Ahmad, and has received the highest quality of care. If these physicians are no longer in this area, none of us will be able to travel to where they will be located to very easily and travelling would be very inconvenient for us patients.

By going through with having a non-physician nonhealthcare group purchase the Marion Eye Centers from underneath Dr. Ahmad, would create loss of jobs in our community as well as revenue. Retina services are a necessity in this area on a daily basis.

Dr. Ortiz and Dr. Ahmad are both highly respected in the community for their expertise and patient care, and to lose such distinguished doctors is unthinkable.

Please reconsider and let Dr. Ahmad go through with his purchase of these eye centers so continued good care can continue in our area.

Sincerely,

Mike & Gail Rawson

Mike and Gail Rawson

6600 Day Road

Carbondale,IL 62902

March 16, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing this letter in response to the possible purchase of the Marion Eye Care Center by a prospective entity other than Dr. Ahmad. It is my understanding that Dr. Ahmad has signed a letter of intent to purchase the building presently housing the Marion Eye Center and cannot imagine that support would not be generated in support of Dr. Ahmad.

I am currently a patient of Dr. Otiz who is a member of Dr. Ahmad's excellent staff. The location of the Marion Eye Center is not only conveniently located for me but I am sure for many of the Center's patients.

Dr Ahmad has operated this facility for 25 years. This has certainly provided jobs and income for the Marion community plus excellent eye care for people in your community as well as surrounding areas. I am sure that the employees currently working at this facility would appreciate your support.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Best regards,

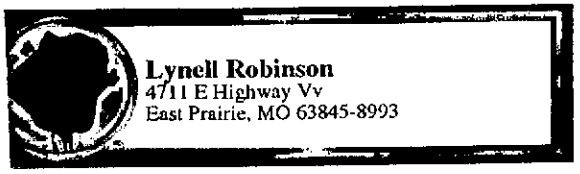
Tommy Decker

To whom it may concern:

My father has been a patient of the Marion Eye Centers for the last year, and I can not begin to tell you how great the doctors, nurses, and support staff have been to him. The convince of the locations are a life savor, my mother is a senior citizen and she is my fathers' primary care giver which includes driving. So for the centers to be within an hours drive is really helpful. Not only are the centers close, my father has built a trusting relationship with the doctors and staff. I mentioned my parents are senior citizens, and as we all know they are on a fixed income. Well, the doctors have a plan with my father so that he can receive optical care without draining his funds. If an outside entity takes over, are they going to care if my father can see?, or are they going to worry about the bill? I think we all know the answer to that!!!! I support Dr. Ahmad owning the Marion Surgery Center because he and the other doctors and nurses have worked hard to establish a friendly and effective work environment.

Thank You,

Jannell Robinson



26362 State Route Z
St. Mary, MO 63673
March 16, 2011

To Whom it May Concern:

It has recently been brought to my attention of the future sale of the Marion Eye Center located in Marion, IL. In regards to this I believe it would be a tremendous mistake to allow a non-physician non-healthcare entity to purchase such a facility. This is not a factory that can be purchased, changed and run by people that are not in the healthcare business. Eyesight is too delicate and important to risk the loss of this facility owned and operated by physicians.

As you can see I live in Missouri. My husband and I have traveled about an hour and forty-five minutes to arrive at the Marion office. If this office is sold and the surgeons are dispersed elsewhere, and I am told that their closest surgery center would then be in Mt. Vernon, this would be entirely too far for us to travel. The professional care and concern that I received from this office, from both the doctors and staff, should not be lost because of a buying transaction that would put the surgery center in the hands of non-healthcare investors.

Please consider the impact on the doctors, staff and community if the loss of this facility takes place. Healthcare provision is best when the ownership belongs to the healthcare providers, they are the ones who care.

Sincerely,

Jo Flieg

March 19-2011

Marion Eye Center & Optical
Marion Il.

I have been a patient at Marion Eye Center for years. with Dr Olk and prefer to Continue there.

Lillie McGowan
215 Fiddler Ridge Rd
Murphysboro Il 62966

Mar 19, 2011.

Dear Sir,

I am a patient of Dr Olk. I have been coming to him for over an year which is necessary and probably will be with the eye problem that I have.

I now travel 100 mis round trip which is an inconvenience, but any farther would really be hard. So we would really appreciate it if Dr Ahmad could buy it and keep it as it is.

Thank you,

Hubert R. Volle.
R1 Box 216.
Golconda, Il. 62938

March 20, 2011

City Council Members and
to all Concerned;

I, Anita Henderson, daughter of patient Ollie E. Allston which is 90 (ninety) years of age is under the OLK's care. The staff is wonderful and caring to her which you do not find. It is hard enough to come to grips for the eye care she needs, doing away with the staff and facility will do great harm to many, many people who do desperately needs it and unable to go anywhere else to get it.

Do something for the people once and leave the center as it is.

Thank you
Ollie Allston
& Anita Henderson

Dear Marion Eye Center
Please do not Close down,
I am a Senior Citizen +
I don't drive much any-more
There is no telling where
I would have to go, and I
have an eye apt. April 7.
I go to Carbondale, because
I live in DeSoto Il.
Thank You
Mrs. Phyllis Morgan

March 20, 2011

To whom it may concern,

My name is Luella Barber and I am a patient of Dr. Ahmad at the Marion Eye Center. Dr. Ahmad has been a great asset to the community. The Marion Eye Center is in a great location and has served many in the surrounding counties. I feel it would be a great disadvantage to take away these services.

Sincerely,
Luella Barber

3/21/11

Marion Eye Centers & Optical,

I am very thankful for the fine care I received from the surgeon & all care givers during & after my eye surgery. I believe it would be a great loss to many if this purchase is allowed to happen. I believe this fine surgery center is very much needed in our area & that it is a valuable asset in our area.

Reva Wallace
801 Sahara St. Apt. B4
Harrisburg IL 62946

Reva L. Wallace

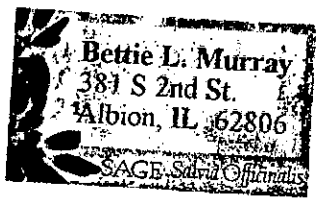
I have a hard time getting some one to take me to Marion eye center for my check up and for eye surgery.

I hope they don't have to move the eye center and surgery center. It will make it harder on me.

Janet Baldwin

I think they need to keep Marion Eye Center in Marion. I had my "eye surgery" there - and would not be happy going some where else. This would be a very very inconvenience to me & other patients. And I am opposing this Certificate.

Thanks,
Bettie Murray



We have used the surgery center many times. My husband and I both have had cataract and eye lift surgeries at this facility. We live near Thompsonville and are willing to travel this distance; however, we are 79 and 80 and are unable to go any further for help.

I have also gone to this facility for epiderals because it is latex free and I'm allegic to latex since it causes respiratory arrest in my cases.

Sincerely,

William and Shirley Walker
PO 322
West Frankfort, IL 62896

William Walker
PO Box 322
W Frankfort IL 62896

March 15, 2011

Dear Marion Eye Center Staff,

I just received your notice regarding the possibility of your Center relocating. This would cause a great inconvenience to my family as my mom is 95 + my husband has handicaps + to travel outside Marion area would be nearly impossible if not impossible.

Once established with a Surgeon it is most difficult to make new adjestments.

We are 100% against M.E.C. moving out of Marion.

Respectfully,
Joan Moore

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
1-800-344-7056

McLeansboro
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Metropolis
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Murphysboro
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Sparta
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Steeleville
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Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-6181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D
Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. • Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D.
Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

LARRY DAWSON
Charlotte E. Dawson
PO BOX 464

MULKEYTOWN, IL 62865

Mrs. Charlotte Dawson
PO Box 464
Mulkeytown, IL 62865-0464

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

Larry D. Dawson
Charlotte E Dawson

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
165 Plaza Dr.
Anna, IL 62906
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1102 N. Main Street
Benton, IL 62812
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1001 Beadle Dr.
Carbondale, IL 62901
1-800-654-3562

Carmi
1201 W Main
Carmi, IL 62821
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
404 E. Plaza Drive
Carterville, IL 62918
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
899 E. McCord St.
Centralia, IL 62801
1-618-532-1997

Chester
203 VanZant
Chester, IL 62233
1-618-826-5413

Eldorado
1204 US Hwy 45 North
Eldorado, IL 62930
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
101 East Main St.
Fairfield, IL 62837
1-618-842-3228

Harrisburg
#5 Eye Center Dr.
Harrisburg, IL 62946
1-618-252-2403

Herrin
321 South Park
Herrin, IL 62948
1-618-942-2900

McLeansboro
311 S. Jackson St.
McLeansboro, IL 62859
1-618-643-2650

Mt. Vernon
3111 Broadway
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
1-618-244-2777

Marion
1200 W. DeYoung
Marion, IL 62959
1-800-344-7058

Metropolis
1801 E. 5th, Box 890
Metropolis, IL 62960
1-800-851-3601

Murphysboro
1934 Walnut St.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
1-618-565-1405

SIU Carbondale
374 E. Grand Ave.
Carbondale, IL 62901
1-618-549-0615

Sparta
520 E. Broadway, Suite 100
Sparta, IL 62886
1-618-443-3111

Surgery Center
806 N. Treas
Marion, IL 62959
1-618-993-2113

Vienna
1005 W Vine St.
Vienna, IL 62995
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
909 W. Main St.
West Frankfort, IL 62896
1-618-937-2442

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. · Ukeme Umana, M.D. · George Ortiz, M.D. · Meth Linwong, M.D. · Irfan Ansari, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. · Mark Barlow, O.D. · William Fix, O.D. · Brenda Hutchison, O.D. · Lisa Thatch, O.D. · Mollie Raddatz, O.D.
Beth Westell, O.D. · Michael Kalaher, O.D. · Eric Weinbauer, O.D. · Debra Hall, O.D. · Chih-Jen Wang, O.D. · Lisa Hager, O.D.

ANNA CATHERS

4307 ROSELN #3

MT VERNON, IL 62864

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis ← definatly
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity ← Absoutly!
- Unknown future of the surgery center ← Thesis — NOT!
- Loss of jobs in our community ← yes Ridculas!
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

MARION EYE CENTER

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
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Pinckneyville
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Sparta
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Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5666

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

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Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. • Mollie Raddatz,
Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddo
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O

VIRGINIA WILLS

130 MUNDELL DR

BENTON, IL 62812

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity no
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

I like Dr. Olk. Very much, I have been seeing him a long time

Thank you for your support. We want it to stay the same. Virginia Wills

Please Excuse My writing.
I don't want nothing to change.
I want Marion Eye center. Its the only place
I can go, I have no other way.)
Marion Eye Center Is the only one. Please

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D. • R. Joseph Olk, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Timothy Blankenship, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D.
Dolly Campbell, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D
Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Rachel Shewmake, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D. • Emily Smith, O.D.
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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

THOMAS WHITE

104 W JACKSON

MARION, IL 62959

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

March 14, 2011

Re: Marion Eye Center

All of the above are reasons my husband and I want to express our feelings in favor of the Marion Eye Center.

We are both senior citizens (77 & 81) and have gone to the Marion Eye Center for years and we have always been very pleased with them. We are always thankful they are located close to us with such wonderful care.

Patty Carson
Donald Carson

This will be a very big inconvenience because I do not drive and my eye doctor is Doctor Ortiz has done my eye surgery of Carbondale Illinois. I would not like him to be moved because of this Inconvenience. I do not want a new eye doctor because Dr ortiz has done a great Job. I would like to keep him (Dr ortiz) as my doctor.

thanks

NAME: Milton Santos
ADDRESS: 1400 N Illinois Ave #4155
Carbondale IL 62901
PHONE NUMBER: 618-201-1602

March 15 2011

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER IN MY CONCERN ABOUT THE MARION EYE CENTER.

I HAVE BEEN A PATIENT OF DR. ORTIZ SINCE 1991, DUE TO EYE TROUBLE. DUE TO HIS SKILL AND A GREAT STAFF I AM DOING WELL, AND ANY OTHER TREATMENT I MIGHT NEED I WOULD WANT THE MARION EYE CENTER TO BE THERE FOR ME. I LIVE ONLY SIX MILES FROM THE C'DALE OFFICE, ~~WHICH~~ MAKE IT VERY CONVENT FOR ME. ALSO I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SAME STAFF STAY IN FORCE. A TAKEOVER SHIP OF A NON HEALTH CARE ENTITY WOULD NOT BE GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN IL.

A CONCERN CITIZEN

BILL DAUM
10 SOUTH 8TH ST.
MT. PHYSGATO IL.
62966

Shirley Godwin
1356 E. Grange Hall Rd.
Murphysboro, IL 62966

March 14, 2011

Dear Marion Eye Centers & Optical,

It has been brought to my attention your physicians may be leaving our area.

This would create such an inconvenience to me and my family. Due to my failing health I cannot travel a long distance or even try to find transportation further away.

I am very satisfied with my eye care providers and having to receive numerous treatment related to my eye condition, it would be impossible for me continue any follow up treatments.

My Degenerative Macular Disease was noted in the early stages and treatment was administered immediately to restore my eyesight. This reflected in a routine checkup.

Long distance would prevent me to travel less and a routine eye exam would be less often, which would allowed my condition to become more aggressive. (possible blindness)

Carbondale needs to retain as many surgeons, instead of leaving our community.

I speak for all widow's that live by themselves and family resides further away.

I hope we can save Marion Eye Center's & Opitcal to stay in our area, "we" need you.

Sincerely,

Shirley Godwin
Satisfied Patient

March 21, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to the SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center being sold. I believe that the Marion Eye Centers & Optical should be able to purchase this center. In August of last year myself, my father and younger sister all had Lasik eye surgery performed by Dr. Umana. We chose to have our surgery there because it was recommended to us by others who had the procedure done by Dr. Umana and because of its convenient location. My grandmother had also had retinal surgery performed by Dr. Umana and recommended him.

The staff was both friendly and courteous. In fact, I had a complication with one of my eyes and had to call Dr. Umana at his home at 10:00 PM the night of my surgery. He immediately told me to meet him at the office and he would exam my eye. While this was a 50 minute drive for us, had it been elsewhere, it would have been much longer. It is also probable that we would not have been able to contact the surgeon at home to ask about my eye. Once Dr. Umana examined my eye, he saw the problem and called in one of his assistants and corrected the problem that night. Never once did they make me feel that they were "put-out" by having to come in on a Friday night at 10:00 PM. We arrived home at midnight and were back the next morning for my follow-up appointment. As you can see, this would have been a much bigger ordeal had the surgery been elsewhere.

The surgery center also draws in revenue for the community. For each trip that we took to Marion, including the initial consultation, surgery and follow-ups, we either purchased fuel, meals, or went shopping.

Sincerely,

Meagan Short

Meagan Short
618-384-8221

To whom it concern:

I'm writing this letter in opposition of the purchase and approved certification of the sale of the Marion Eye Center to anon –physician non healthcare entity. This sale will cause me to travel outside of my commuting area for services. The sale of this facility will cause loss of jobs in our community which will lead to a loss of revenue.

Arlene Nelson

3-18-11

To whom it may concern:

In regards to the letter received earlier this week, We the family of Cynthia Shands oppose the sale & relocation of the Marion Eye Center in Marion.

It would be a great inconvenience, as Cindy is handicapped & cannot travel far.

In these hard times the loss of jobs and revenue to the area may be difficult to recoop.

Sincerely,

The family of Cynthia Shands

Marion City Council
1102 Tower Sq
Marion IL 62959

Dear Council Members,

I oppose selling the Marion Eye Center to anyone other than the present Drs! They have done so much for Southern IL. I've had procedures done by Dr Ahmad & Dr Umana! They are the greatest. I've had Drs in St Louis telling me how great my cataract look & they want to know who did it. I've also had eyelid surgery. Please don't sell to or allow a sale to a non-physician non-healthcare entity. People all over Southern Illinois come to these Drs & spend money in Marion! There would be no retina Dr available on a daily basis. They employ a lot of people here & it will mean a loss of a great many jobs & revenue; especially if they decide to move several offices. We don't want to go to St Louis, Evansville, Cape Girardeau etc, Please! Think! So many people will not be coming to Marion. This practice has helped the Marion reputation!

NAME: Kitty Scarlett

ADDRESS: 1952 Brush Rd
New Burnside IL 62683

PHONE NUMBER: 618-542-8654

To the Marion Center
and whomever it concerns,

Yes, I definately do believe we need a well supplies place for our Physicians to operate for both the drs. & their Patients.

Wish I could attend but at this time no.

Hopefully this will be a successful meeting and all things will turn out for the very best for all

Sincerely
M. Johnson

3/21/11

Dear Sirs.

I have been a patient of Marion Eye Centers + Optical for 30 years and their doctors are the best in the world and we are lucky to have them in Southern Illinois so we don't have to drive to St. Louis to get eye care. or travel out of the State. I have never heard any bad remarks concerning the service of the company.

I hope and pray this problem is solved and we can continue to receive excellent eye service in the future.

Thank You

Clarence Jones

10943 N DuQuoin St

Benton, IL 62812

To Whom It May Concern:

I sincerely hope that the surgery center for the Marion Eye Center is able to stay In Marion because as a person who has had several eye surgeries there It was more convient wise as for the travel. Also I believe as long as the doctors From the eye center have been doing surgery there it is only fair that they be able to continue to do so, Please give this chance to do so for the sake of their many Older patients who will be the most affected as far as travel goes.

Thank you
Peggy O'keefe

March 13, 2011

To Whom This May Concern:

We have been informed there is a possibility of our Marion area loosing the Marion Eye Centers & Optical.

This would be an inconvenience to us, as patients, as well as we would have to travel outside the area for our eye care and with the high price of gas, many people would be in this same situation, unable to afford gas to travel the longer distance..

Citizens in our age group find this to be a great disadvantage. Please consider we citizens and this would also mean loss of jobs in our area, as well as loss of revenue for us.

Most importantly is the loss of our eye doctors whom many elderly people have learned to trust and receive our eye care.

Please don't let these Doctors be taken from us.

Sincerely,

Charles & Phyllis Jackson

Charles and Phyllis Jackson

MARCH 11, 2011

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN,

I AM A SENIOR CITIZEN OF 77 YEARS AND I AM IN NEED OF A SURGICAL EYE CENTER LOCATED CLOSE TO MY HOME . AND IN MY OWN CITY BECAUSE I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FIND ANY TRANSPORTATION IF I HAD TO DRIVE MANY MILES, AS IT IS I CAN FIND NEIGHBORS TO DRIVE ME.

WE NEED TO CONSIDER US OLDER PEOPLE THAT ARE NOT ABLE TO DRIVE, ALSO WE CANNOT AFFORD THE EXPENSE THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO TRAVEL OUT OF OUR CITY OF MARION, IL.

THANK-YOU,

Linda Hanks

We need the surgery's done in Marion. The addition of time and cost to go out of our local area are very hard on the older folks of this area

Please help establish a surgery center here in MARION

Very pleased patients of Marion Eye Center

NAME: Kenneth and Sally Jaffe

ADDRESS: 102 Ryder Cup Blvd

Marion IL 62959

PHONE NUMBER: 618 998-9494

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

CATHERINE MCCHESNEY

608 S HADFIELD ST

MARION, IL 62959

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

Arthur M. Sherry
a very bad idea

March 15, 2011

To Whom it may concern:

My wife, Roberta, and I have been using the Marion Eye Center for over twenty five years and we would not like to see it sold. We very much oppose this sale.

It would be of great inconvenience to us older patient to have to travel outside the area to see the surgeons. Over the years we have been satisfied with the way we have always been treated, especially with all the work that has been done by Dr. Umana, Dr. Olk. and staff.

So we trust that a non-physician non-health group will be unsuccessful in buying the Marion Eye Center.

Sincerly,

Arthur Donley

Arthur & Roberta Donley

To Whom It May Concern,

My wife and I have been going to Marion Eye Center for several years. She has seen Dr Ortiz and I regularly see Dr. Olk. Since I started seeing him my vision has improved. It would be impossible to travel to another location to get it done. I am on a fixed income and it is hard enough to get by with what I have. Adding more gas expenses into it would strain my budget even more.

The Economy is bad enough as it is. Why take more jobs and send them overseas or to Mexico? Let's keep some in the Marion area. I think the Marion area will be very devastated if the Surgery Center is sold to the non-healthcare entity. They would lose a lot of money in revenue and as I mentioned before a lot of jobs gone. This affects a lot of things therein. Loss of jobs equals loss of income loss of income equals fall in housing market so on and so on.

In other words I am strongly against moving the Marion Eye Center out of Marion Illinois.

Sincerely,

Ronald England

Ronald England

DEAR SIRS

I WOULD TO SEE THE MARION SURGERY CENTER STAY WHERE IT IS BECAUSE OF THE CONVIENCE OF THE LOCATION.

I DONT WANT TO HAVE TO TRAVEL OUT SIDE OF THE AREA TO SEE MY DOCTOR.

NAME: TOM SHACKLETON

ADDRESS: BOX 365

DESOTO IL. 62924

PHONE NUMBER: 618-867-2437

To whom it may Concern —

Please do not sell this facility to anyone for a non health care place. The people of this area really need our Maroon Eye Center & do not want to have to travel a large distance for our physicians.

I would thank you very much for not selling it & taking it from here.

Yours Truly
Helen D. Jones

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

ETHEL ROLAND

114 E HOMER

HARRISBURG, IL 62946

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support. Ethel M Roland

Carbondale, Illenois
March 15, 2011

Dear Marion Eye Centers & Optical

In responce to your letter, our service has been wonderful for many years and would be a great loss to our community, to make us go out side of our area for eye care, spicially for elder patients as well as loss of more jobs for many are at this area are out of jobs. You've done an excellent job with experinced doctors, surgeons, nurses & staff, please continue in the Southern Illinois Area.

Hope the letters are helpful in keeping your center services here in Marion & Carbondale, Illenois

Sincerely
Diana Garoian

Ms. Diana Garoian
705 S Murrie Dr
Carbondale IL 62901

409 N. Westridge Dr.
Carbondale, IL 62901
March 15, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board
Springfield, IL

Gentlemen:

As a patient of Dr. George Ortiz, Dr. Michael Kalaher and Dr. Olk of the Marion Eye Center, I find it much more convenient to have necessary surgical procedures performed at the Marion facility as I live in Carbondale. I find it most inconvenient and somewhat stressful to have to travel over an hour to Mt. Vernon for surgical procedures.

The Marion Surgery Center is very convenient as well as an excellent surgical/.medical facility, I believe it is to everyone's advantage that it continue to be maintained as a medical facility, preferably owned and administrated by Dr. Ahmad and his very competent staff.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lilly Crane

March 13,2011

Marion Eye Center & Optical

We are upset about the idea that our Drs. might have to move. I hope whoever is for this would consider we older people that have a hard time going out of town for apointments. Many are unable to drive and have to depend on family or friends to take them to these appointments.
We both have used the Marion Eye Center for years and trust them. Our eyes are valuable to us and don"t want anyone else.
Surely, the people of Marion will realize the loss of this place will be a great hindrance.
Charles and Louise Hoffard of Johnston City, Il.

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Staff

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

DOROTHY WHITE

P.O. BOX 294

ENERGY, IL 62933

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

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ANGELINE MALCOM

720 E. BRYAN STREET

HERRIN, IL 62948

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

We need our Dr's and jobs here
Please Don't let this Happen Thank you

1995 State Route 146 E
Anna, IL 62906
March 16, 2011

TO Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that doctors at the Marion Eye Center are no longer able to perform surgery in Marion, IL due to a lack of a surgery center.

My family has a long history of having eye surgeries performed in Marion, Il and consider it a great inconvenience to travel out of state for such surgery. Recently, a family member, who lives 20 minutes from Marion was required to travel much farther. Due to the increase of gasoline prices and not being familiar with the new site caused much concern. It is not an option to go elsewhere for the services provided by the Marion Eye Center.

My husband and I have been patients of the doctors for many years. We are also closer to Marion than to other places where the surgery might be performed. Also, our family physician is in Marion. When we have appointments, sometimes we eat at local restaurants, purchase other items – other words, we shop–spend money in Marion.

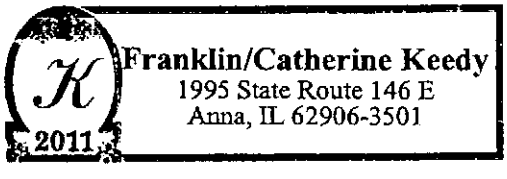
It is my opinion, Dr. Ahmad should be allowed to purchase the surgery center since he has signed a letter of intent to purchase. He will staff the center with competent, caring people, providing many jobs to local people; therefore, helping our local economy. He has history of providing high quality services to residents of Southern Illinois. He has proven himself in the healthcare business. Has the non-healthcare group done the same?

Let's keep eye surgery by the doctors of the Marion Eye Center in Marion, IL.

Respectfully,

Catherine Keedy

Catherine Keedy



Doris Cresto
111 Thomas Drive
Cobden, Il 62920

Att: Marion Eye Centers and Optical

I received you letter concerning no longer performing eye surgeries in Marion. I know that you would like for me to support you on this possible move, but regrettably I cannot. I am an elderly woman and have a hard time getting around; also I have to rely on the kindness of others for transportation and would no longer be able to use your services should you move any further away.

Thank you,

Doris Cresto

March 19 2011
307 Vaux St.
Zeigler, Il. 62999

To Whom It May Concern:
Re: Marion Eye Center
P.O. Box 1178
Marion, Il. 62959

How unfortunate that there are people in Marion, Il. who would not appreciate the marvelous care and facilities we enjoy with Marion Eye Center.

We can't attend the April 5, 2011 meeting, but certainly oppose any action which would not allow Marion Eye Center to purchase the SCA in Marion. We have had cataract surgery, retinal repairs and a variety of eye problems which were cared for in excellent fashion. Most certainly we deserve to have this type of eye care close to our homes. Do not allow Dr. Ahmad's Eye Center to be denied this surgery center for our care.

Thank you very much.

Charlotte and Ernie Sparks

Ernest and Charlotte Sparks
307 Vaux Street
Zeigler, IL 62999

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GEORGE LAND
4775 LICK CREEK RD
BUNCOMBE, IL 62912

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

Leslie Conrad
3688 Cross Rd
Salem, IL 62881

Marion Eye Centers & Optical
PO Box 1178
Marion, IL 62959-9938

Subject: Illinois Health Planning Board Hearing

March 24, 2011

To Whom it Concerns:

I have been going to Marion Eye Care Center for many years. The doctors and staff working there are excellent. When I first came I was interested in Lasik surgery. However, after running some tests and speaking with Dr. Umana I discovered I had a cornea problem which would not allow me to have Lasik surgery. Doctor Umana told me there was another surgery I could have, PRK surgery.

Doctor Umana performed the surgery with great skill. I have perfect vision now and would not trust anyone else for my eye care except Dr. Umana. He is familiar with me and my eye condition and is highly accomplished. If I were to have to go further to see him it would create a great hardship for me as I work two jobs and have children in school.

In addition, if the doctors had to relocate the loss of jobs, and the revenue that would leave with them, could be devastating to our community. With today's current economy I do not feel any community can afford to lose talented doctors and the revenue they bring to our community.

Sincerely,

Leslie Conrad

Brenda Frakes

PO Box 29
Bonnie, IL 62816

March 19, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I'd like to express my concern related to the sale of Marion Eye Centers.

I've been a patient of Dr Otiz for many years. I'm a Registered Nurse and feel he's most skilled in his field, and conducts himself most professionally.

Traveling, to be able to have these exceptional services, is what I will continue to do. Please consider keeping our exceptional physicians in this same facility.

Sincerely,

Brenda Frakes

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
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Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D. • R. Joseph Olk, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Timothy Blankenship, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D.
Dolly Campbell, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D
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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

LOTTIE NOBLES

358 EAST HENRY

POPLAR BLUFF, MO 63901

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

I have always been very happy with all the Drs Nurses at the Marion Eye Center, Everyone has always been very Nice with me Lottie Nobles

3-23-11

To Whom it May Concern,

I am opposed to the proposed Certificate of Need that is needed to stop the purchase of Marion Surgery Center by Dr. Ahmael.

The closing of the Center will cause these doctors to leave the area, a problem which is already a serious threat in Southern Illinois. It will also be inconvenient and expensive for their clients.

Please allow the purchase of Marion Surgery Center by Dr. Ahmad

NAME: Becky Shaffer - mother of Jacob Shaffer (a minor)

ADDRESS: 388 Pump House Rd

Murphysboro, IL 62966

PHONE NUMBER: 618 319 3421

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

ARTHUR EDWARDS

93 SHARP ROCK RD

AVA, IL 62907

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

For all the reasons above the Marion Center should not be sold to an outsider but to Dr. Ahmad Please Keep it open for the patients in this area. I and my wife Clara are patients there Thank You Arthur Edwards By Wife Clara

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Staff 3-26-2011

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Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D
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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

3-26-2011

HELEN HARKINS

1309 E. WEBSTER ST.

BENTON, IL 62812

Dear Sirs: Please fight for conditions to remain the same as these services are very much appreciated. All of the reasons listed below are very pertinent to us. Thank you

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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Helen Jean Harkins
1309 E. Webster St.
Benton, IL 62812

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

To whom it may concern: March 16, 2011

We are writing to give our support to the Marion eye Centers & optical facilities in the local level.

We are pleased that eyecare is convenient to our home. We go to the Harrisburg & Marion offices. My husband has glaucoma, & had recent cataract surgery & we are pleased with his care. I had a retina problem in 1976. & I saw Dr. Olk in St. Louis. If I should have need of any other retina surgery I would surely look to Dr Olk again. He has also treated my sister and friends of ours.

We're sorry that an outside non physician, non-health care entity is trying to buy the facility, which the eye Center operates.

We give our full support, & hope that this letter will help you in keeping quality eyecare in So. Ill.

Ronald M. Brooks &
Alice J. Brooks

for all of the 8 reasons on the other side are the reasons we're concerned.

Mrs Alice Brooks RN retired

Roger C. Medlen

602 S. Taylor Drive

Carbondale, IL 62901

March 16, 2011

To Whom it May Concern,

We oppose the Certificate of Need by a Non-Physician Non-Healthcare Entity to purchase Marion Eye Centers of Carbondale and surrounding area. My Mom (Alma Medlen) has been a patient of Dr. Ortiz and recently (12/10) had Eye Surgery performed by Dr. Ortiz. My Mom is 86 years old and lives in Carterville, IL. Mom previously was attending an Eye Surgeon at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, MO. Because of the travel time and arrangements having to be made by myself and other family members to take her to St. Louis for her exams etc. Mom requested a Referral to the Southern Illinois area. Her Surgeon recommended Dr. Ortiz in Carbondale and Mom has been seeing him for 2 years. This Certificate to purchase Marion Eye Centers of Carbondale and the surrounding areas would be an Extreme Inconvenience and Leading us to Travel Outside the Area. All things considered if this happens we would go back to Barnes Hospital in St. Louis.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Medlen (Son of Patient Alma L. Medlen)

Roger Medlen
602 S Taylor Dr.
Carbondale, IL 62901

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL
PO BOX 1178
MARION, IL. 62959-9938

3-14-2011

SIRS

THE IDEA OF CLOSING YOUR FACILITY IS BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION. WE CANNOT VISUALIZE ANY POSITIVE RESULTS FROM THIS TRANSACTION.

WE ARE IN OUR 80'S, AND HAVING TO TRAVEL A FURTHER DISTANCE IS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE. DR. AHMAD'S QUICK ACTION AND MEDICAL SKILLS SAVED ME FROM TOTAL BLINDNESS.

WHY SHOULD A NON-HEALTHCARE ENTITY EVEN BE CONSIDERED, WHEN THEIR ONLY BUSINESS IS TO MAKE MONEY, NOT HELP PEOPLE.

SINCERELY

Dorothy Curtis

DOROTHY CURTIS
900 VILLA COURT APT 310
CARBONDALE, IL. 62901

711 E. Candy Cane Ln.

West Frankfort, IL

62896

15 March 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this in opposition to the contemplated closure of the Marion Surgery Center.

My wife and I are both in our late 70's and have had eye surgery done at the Marion Surgery Center. I have had surgery performed at the Mt. Vernon Surgery Center . There is no comparison in convenience between the two locations. My surgery was done in January 2011 which happened to be the date of our last snow storm and required me to find someone with a 4-wheel drive vehicle in order to keep the scheduled surgery appointment at Mt. Vernon. This would not have been required if the surgery had been scheduled for Marion.

To see the import of loss of revenue that would be or has been involved, one would only have had to make a trip to the local restaurants on Cataract Surgery Day.

The economy is already in a sad situation without the termination of more employees caused by the closure of another facility.

Sincerely,

Walter K. Hehner Jr.

WALTER K. HEHNER JR.

1310 IL HWY 1

Carmi, IL 62821

March 15, 2011

Marion Eye Centers

PO BOX 1178

Marion, IL 62959-9938

To Marion Eye Centers:

This is in regard to the sale of Marion Eye Center. I've been going there because I like the service and because it is convenient. I was going to the Carmi office when they discovered that I had glaucoma. I have been seeing Dr. Ortiz since that time. I have had surgery done three times at the Marion office and I've been satisfied with the service. I don't want to lose the Carmi office either because I have had to depend on Stanley to help me from time to time. Just lately I needed a screw in my glasses because I lost it and I needed my glasses since I work at the Carmi White-County High School. I was only gone a short period of time and I was back at work. Sometimes people need contacts, so they can get back to work place real quick. We have lost enough jobs in our area and we don't need to lose these people that we depend on. The lost of any of the jobs will affect the communities that they are located in.

I purchase my glasses in Carmi because I like to have a place where I can get them taken care of quickly. Some of my test can be done here in Carmi and I don't have to miss a half day of work. My last test took about 10 or 15 minutes. With the cost of gas I prefer to have test done here if I don't have to see Dr. Ortiz at his Harrisburg office. They have offices located in several different areas and that makes it convenient time and money wise for the consumers.

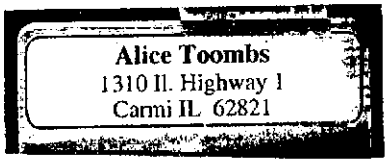
I sure hope that we can keep the business as it is for all the parties concerned.

Sincerely yours,

Alice Toombs

Alice Toombs

Concerned Patient



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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

March 15, 2011

CARMEN FELKER

195 W.TOWNSEND P O BOX 417

SHAWNEETOWN, IL 62984

I am very sorry to hear about the possibility of this doctor change. However, I will no longer be seeing Dr. Ortiz.

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

Sincerely,
Carmen Felker

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Thank you for your support.

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RUBY MORRIS

2950 WESTRIDGE PL APT 102

CARBONDALE, IL 62901

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

Umana M.D.
is my eye Doctor I am Well Pleased with his work.
Ruby Morris

Fred H. Dippel, Ed. D.
1713 Quail Run
Marion IL 62959

March 17, 2011

To Whom it May Concern:

In my eighty-six years of life, in naval service and in civilian life, I have been treated by more eye health care professionals than is the lot of most people. Thus, I have come to appreciate the importance of readily and conveniently available well-trained personnel when an eye anomaly develops. Therefore, I urge that the Marion Eye Center remain at its present Marion location and as now staffed.

Furthermore, I endorse the reasons listed below for maintaining the present service as it is and where it now is:

* Inconvenience to the patient

* Patients having to travel outside the area

* Patients will travel to the facility a doctor operates in because of his experience and integrity

* Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis

* Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity

* Unknown future of the surgery center

* Loss of jobs in our community

* Loss of revenue for the community

Fred H. Dippel

March 18, 2011

Marion Eye Centers
PO Box 1178
Marion, IL 62959-9938

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a patient of the Marion Eye Centers and it is a concern to me as a patient and member of the community that the Eye Center would be sold to a non-physician non-healthcare. This would be inconvenient to me as a patient for many reasons: traveling outside of the community to see my physician. I would travel to the facility that my doctor operates in because of his experience and integrity. I would not be comfortable with ownership and decision making done by a non-healthcare entity. I am terribly concerned about the unknown future of the surgery center as a whole; loss of jobs in our community, loss of revenue for our community and most of all loss of experienced retina doctors in our community.

Concerned patient,

Phyllis Borgsmiller

Phyllis Borgsmiller
2105 Rainbow Drive
Murphysboro, IL 62966

3/17/2011

Marion Eye Center
PO Box 1178
Marion, Illinois 62959-9938

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this of the status of the Marion Eye Center. We wish to keep the office in the Marion area. It is needed for the convenience of the patients in this area. We elderly patients cannot drive far or we have to find another way. We do not wish to go to Mt Vernon for service.

Respectfully,

Frances Sisk

Frances Sisk
P.O. Box 149
Dowell, Ill 62927

17 March 2011

As a 90 year old patient of the Marion Eye Center I wish to give all of the reasons listed in the Centers letter, why it will be unwise to underwrite said certificate of need.

I have been serveded several times at the Center, also have friends & we are thankful for the good serve rendered.

It will be a great loss for the community & loss of much needed revenue.

Sincerely,

Thelma L Pettiford.

Ms Thelma Pettiford
109 S Division St Apt 109
Du Quoin IL 62832-1872

March 17, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to oppose the Purchase of the Marion Eye Center by the non-physician, non-healthcare entity. I understand that the surgeons at Marion Eye Center will not be able to do surgery at these locations if this happens. We need this service for our area so that we don't have to travel distances to get the surgery that we need. I have a trust with my doctors at Marion Eye Center and do not relish having to get other doctors or traveling elsewhere for the service that I receive at Marion Eye Center.

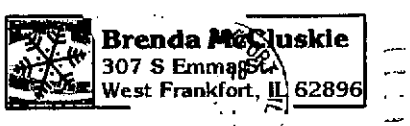
I personally don't want someone who is not a health-care entity to make medical decisions for me. Also, just think of the impact it will have in the community.

Please don't take our wonderful doctors away.

Thank you,

Brenda McCluskie

Brenda McCluskie
307 S Emma Street
West Frankfort, IL 62896



March 17, 2011

TO: Marion Eye Centers & Optical

Many people in southern Illinois have come to rrely on retina services as provided by Marion Eye Centers. Many of these patients are elderly and almost always require the assistance of family and friends to transport them for their surgery. Any change or added distance complicates their problems.

Marion Eye Centers, as it is presently located and operated, is an asset to our communities. Changes in the proximity of these retina surgery services will disrupt employees and patients alike.

The Illinois Health Planning Board should consider the excellent job presently being done by Marion Eye Centers and reject any proposed request for change.

Yours truly,

William Krueger

William Krueger

602 Murphysboro Road

Chester, IL 62233

March 20, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board,

As a person who has worn glasses and have had numerous eye problem issues throughout my life, I strongly oppose the Certificate for Need Exemption that has been applied for. Please do not let this happen.

Thank you,

Mrs. Candace A. Hopkins

Hopkins
12885 N. Egypt Shores Dr.
Coal Springs, IL
62922

19 March 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

We, the Southern Illinois community want the Marion Surgical Eye Center to remain as a Facility for eye surgery. It is a central location for many areas around Southern Illinois, Kentucky, and Indiana.

Many patients in the community are elderly and unable to travel a long distance. We also need the employment in the area.

Sincerely,

Etta A. Robinson

3-15-11

To whom It May Concern!

It is in my opinion that all the reasons listed are reason enough that the present surgeons may remain in the present facilities at Marion Eye Center -

I am definitely in opposition for a certificate let given by the Illinois Health Planning Board to the non physician - non - heathy care person or persons

Dr. Oak is my Doctor and I would be very unhappy if I had to change to another Doctor at any time -

Reasons: listed on reverse side -

Thank you for your attention to this matter -

Sincerely,

Carolyn Bethel
830 De Neal Rd
Harrisburg, Il 62946

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERNE!

I recently was informed that the Marion Eye Center was up for sale. And Dr, Ahmad signed a letter of intent to purchased it in order to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. If they are not allowed to purchase this property and building we as member of the community will be inconvenience. We will half to travel outside the area. We really need retina service and eye care here. I know because I lost my eye sight and had to travel to St. Louis. Pay high gas, and rent a hotel overnight quick a expense to me and to all if this Marion eye center is taken away. Also a lot of people will be losing their jobs. And also the revenue the community will be losing..

Doloros V. Bratten

Doloros V Bratten

40 Charles Lane
Creal Springs, IL. 62922

To whom it may ccncern,

I have been informed that the Marion Eye Center is under negotiations with another company. I am opposed to the center being sold to a non-physician, non-health care entity. As a patient, I am opposed to this because of the lack of retina services that would be available. I am also opposed to it because it would cause loss of jobs in the area which is already been hit hard by the economy. Please consider this when making your decision.

A Satisfied Patiens of Dr. Olk,

Lynn S. Mohr

March 20, 2011

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3226

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
1-800-344-7058

McLeansboro
1-618-643-2650

Metropolis
1-800-344-7058

Mt. Vernon
1-618-244-2777

Murphysboro
1-618-565-1405

Nashville
1-618-327-3900

Pinckneyville
1-618-357-2020

Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D
Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. • Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D.
Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

VIRGINIA SMOTHERS

14174 HWY 34

BENTON, IL 62812

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient ✓
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity ✓
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs. Virginia Smothers
14174 State Highway 34
Benton, IL 62812-6041

All good reason to stay
Where the Eye Center

3-24-11

To whom It may Concern:

I am writing in regards to the selling of Marion Surgery center. I think Dr Ahmad should be able to buy this center because him & the other Drs have been here for years & providing a needed & good Service.

Dr Ahmad did my Cataract surgery several years ago, also did my daughters about a yr and a half ago.

Dr Ortiz did eye surgery on my Grand son when he was about 4yrs, he is now 17 & has went every yr for follow up care. Dr Ortiz is my Dr. & is keeping close watch on me to make sure Glaucoma doesn't progress.

For these Dr's to have to relocate it would be a big inconvenience for a lot of people including my family.

Sincerly

Shirley Davis

& Family

To: Dr's Ahmad + All The Staff (SCA; SISC)
From: Geraldine Glasco
Date: 03-22-2011

I believe That The SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center, Is Very Convenent for the Patients Of The Area Here Are Some Reasons.

Patients Will Not Have To Travel Outside Of The Area. Patients Will Not Have To Travel To. Another Facility Where the Doctor Do Surgery. Where Retina Service is Vitally Needed In Our Area On A Daily Basis. Loss Of Jobs In Our Community. Loss Of Revenue To Out Community.

Sencerly
Geraldine Glasco

3-21-11

Janet Whitesatter
3484 Mt Moriah Rd
Galatia, Il 62935

To Whom it may concern:

We, truly appreciate Marion Eye Center in our area. My family has all of their eye service there.

My mother is 95 1/2 with hip replacement recently. She has had cataract surgery with Dr. Umana, he also treats her for glaucoma. If we had to travel any distance, I don't feel her health would allow this

We have had excellent care & service from Dr. & staff. Please reconsider before closing in this area.

Beside my personal fears of losing the center, the loss of jobs & revenue to our community would be great

A concerned citizen
and patient,

Janet Whitesatter

April 1 2011

Marion eye Centers

I am writing as I am Concern And Hoping & Praying that both eye Centers stay where they are and have been several years When Were older We don't like to drive long Ways since I live here in Prairie Living on Chautauqua St on 955 Villa Court Carbondale Ill 62901 along With 100 other People and We all said We Want both Places stay as is so We'll Keep Hoping & Praying that both stay as is Makes it easier on us older folks as I am 91 years old Just Wanted to let you all Know How We all feel about any Changes

Yours Truley

Helen Waddington

Marion Eye Centers & Staff.

I deeply opposed to the Certificate of Need for the Marion Eye Center for our convenience to get our eyes taken care of by the Good eye Doctors I have had Doctors Umana & Ortiz for Drs & they are really Good are Dr. Ahmad did my Cataract Surgery. I don't drive very much at 85 yr. old & it is convenient for me to see the Dr. at Harrisburg Il.

Yours Truly
Lorene Wheeler
Elizabethtown Il

LORENE WHEELER
PO Box 183
Elizabethtown, IL 62931

To Whom It May Concern

I have been going to Marion Eye Center for many years. My husband & have both had eye surgery there. My husband passed away a short time ago, and I am living with my daughter, who has to take me everywhere I go, because of my bad eyes I had to give up my drivers license. It would be such a hardship for older people to have to travel farther away to have eye surgery. Please don't sell the surgery center in Marion to someone else. I don't believe anyone else ~~else~~ could possibly need it more than we do. I'll soon be 87 years old, and can't travel long distances anymore. I'm sure from seeing other older people at the surgery center, it would be hard on them also. The retina surgery will also be a real asset to this area. The Southern Illinois Surgery Center is vital to this area.

Sincerely,

Geraldine B. Owens
5102 Herrin Rd.
Carterville, IL. 62918

To whom it may concern;

I understand that the Marion Surgery Center is for sale or part of the Center is for sale; My mother had surgery their on her eyes. At my mother age it would be to hard to go any wher else due to her age. My mother told me she trusted her eye Dr's and wouldn't want to go any where else. I hope and pray that every thing works out for the better we already drive almost 50 miles coming to Marion. While were their we almost always eat and shop their. Hope every thing works out Thanks for a job well done.

Thomas E. Haynes
Ref. W. F. Haynes

Herrin IL
3-18-11

To: the Illinois Health Planning Board

I would like to voice my opinion on the decision as to what entity should be allowed to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. The Marion Eye Center has supplied excellent Eye care for this community & over the years have worked to constantly improve that care as new technology became available.

I am elderly and I need extensive eye care due to age & diabetes effects on my eyes. It would be a great hardship on myself and others like me to have to go out of the area for my eye ~~surgies~~ surgeries I have had to have from time to time.

Please allow Marion Eye Center to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. We need the Marion Eye Center to be able to continue to care for us

Thank you,
Imogene Wyatt

I am definitely in opposition of the non Healthcare - Non Physician entity owning this facility.
The need for our Doctors to be able to do surgery here is Vital. Many of us are unable to travel and the disadvantages and inconvience are great.
I feel the need for greater retina services is essential to this area. Please consider the needs of Patients in this area. There definitely is a need for this surgery center in Marion.

Hazel Hamm

440 Stubbs Lane
Cobden, IL 62920

Marion Eye Centers
P.O. Box 1178
Marion, IL 62959

March 29, 2011

Dear Sirs:

We are writing in support of the Marion Eye Center and their purchase of the Southern Illinois Surgery Center in Marion. Our family has been the beneficiary of several surgeries at this facility. We feel it would be a shame for it to be used for another purpose.

It would be an inconvenience to patients who would probably have to travel to St. Louis for surgery, and lack of such a facility in the area could very well result in the loss of several of the doctors who are practicing here now.

The attorney who is requesting a Certificate of Need Exemption has been able to have his way too many times in southern Illinois. Hopefully, he will be told that his shady tactics will not wash in Springfield, no matter how large his campaign contributions.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this issue.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Stubbs

Walter Stubbs

3-15-11

To Whom It May Concern:
C/o Marion Eye Ctrs

Re: Opposition to Non-Healthcare Purchase

My reasons for opposition is as follows:

- Inconvenience for me
- Travel cost ie gas $4 gal
- Ownership by non-healthcare entity
- Loss of community income
- Loss of jobs in area

Please do not issue certificate of need to those unknown to all patients.

Thank you for your prompt attention!

Melodie Tindall
403 North St
M'Boro, IL 62966
(618) 615-8560
(618) 303-6961

3/28/11

I am writing in regards to the letter I received about the sale of the Surgery Center. I am opposed to it selling to people other than Drs. of Marion eye Cntr. I have had two surgery over there. Cataract and had Cornea Transplant done. I feel blessed & the vision I have.

I had to go to St. Louis for Cornea transplant. 7 yrs apart. I had to stay in the hospital the first time 2 wks. and then I had to go back every week for 2 months. Second transplant I had to stay a week then went back every week for 1½ months. The transplant I had in Marion Surgery Cntr. I was there a few hours then I got to come home. I definitely need that surgery Cntr. there a lot of people getting great care for all kind of eye problems. Thank You.

Dorothy Reynolds

3-19-11

To Whom it may Concern:

We the undersigned oppose the sale of the Surgery Center in Marion to someone other than the Marion Eye Doctors. It would be inconvient for my Wife and I to follow Our Doctors to Another location.

Sincerely

Gene + Peggy Bost

March 21 2011

To whom it may concern:

I recommend that Dr Ahmed be permitted to purchase the Southern Illinois Surgery Center where surgeons have been performing surgery for local patients. Many of us have been patients there for years and will not be able to travel to areas farther away for surgeries.

I personally have had glaucoma surgery and two cataract surgeries I'm almost 84 years old and I depend on these doctors. I go every three or four months to the Marion Eye Center for glaucoma check ups and may require surgery for glaucoma on my other eye. We need the surgery center - not a non-health care facility.

Many doctors are leaving this area and we don't want to have to travel long distances for surgeries by our own eye specialists. Southern Illinois can't affor to be without this phase of health care.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Juanita Crackel
901 N Norwest Ln
Carbondale IL 62901-5330

Juanita Crackel
901 N. Norwest Lane
Carbondale Il. 62901-5330
618-549-1835

Edith Joplin
2520 New Era Rd #58
Murphysboro, Ill.
62966

Marion Eye Center
P.O. Box 1178
Marion, Il. 62959-9938

Dear Sir

I support Dr Ahmad and his associate physicians in the endeaver to purchase Marion eye Surgery center.

Sincerely,
Edith Joplin

March 24, 2011
To:
Marion Eye Centers and Optical
and staff.

If the surgery center in Marion were to be moved another area, rather than Marion it would greatly effect a lot of local people.

The surgeons in Marion are highly skilled and I hope they can still do the services performed by them at the location in Marion.

I could not be able to another facility for their services. I'm glad we have their services by these highly skilled surgeons this close in our area.

A long time patient
Edna R. Brinkley
West Frankfort, IL.

3-22-11

In regards to a non-health care entity trying to purchase the Marion, Southern Ill. Surgery Center.

I think this would be a detriment to the patients of Marion and surrounding communities.

We need more convenient health care, not less.

Anita Winter
RR 1 Box 72
Ellery IL 62833

3-15-11

To whom it may Concern.

It has come to my attention that the Marion Surgery Center has come up for Sale. I recently had Surgery there Twice. The Staff + Drs. are all so Very Professional. They Treat you with so much respect + Care! The Best place I have ever been! Why would you want a Non-Physician + No health Care To run this great place, when you already have the best in Town. Dr. Asmal + his staff are the best around.

Thank you
Mr. K. L. Vincent

To whom it may Concern: 3/16/11

Recently I had an aneurysm in my right eye. I knew not to go to the ER for they would tell me to see my eye doctor, of course it was the week-end, Monday morning I saw Dr. Kalaian and he took tests and knew it had to be seen in Marion by Dr. Olk., Dr. Olk did laser surgery right then. My eye is much better, but in April I have to have more surgery to clear up my vision

From Cobden to Carbondale to Marion + back home thank God I didn't have to go to St. Louis or Cape, with gas the price it is. Do you think these are good enough reasons for a lawyer to take over and force them to move?

Those Doctors see more patients than he does, lawyers are slow a dozen and take forever to do a job.

We are twenty people in my family, who at sometime have visited Marion Eye Centers, we were taken care of. Don't move + remember all the reason to stay where you are.

Mr & Mrs Roy Basler Jr
585 Redbud Ln
Cobden IL 62920

Mrs Shirley Basler

3-15-11

Dear Concern,

I hope you all not have to take I know it hard time if you move people won't go far away for Surgery. Please stay in marion I know I won't go out of town or state if I have Surgery in the future I hope you all get this matter work out with out my help you all got 24 Center People county on you be there win ive or eed it this is frist time I have to write a letter to you

Your truth
Gene Todd

3-19-2011

MARION City Council Chambers

I AM WRITING this letter in CONCERN of the people in our AREA who depends on such Doctors that the MARION Eye Center has. LAST YEAR my husband started seeing double, do to a hit on his head. The doctor that he started seeing stopped her PRACTICE at Cape Gir MO. And started teaching the method of surgery, We made 3 opinions, St. Louis, MO, NASHVILLE. TN. MARION Eye Center, We Choose MARION Eye Center, DR. ORTIZ is the only Doctor in this AREA, that does this surgery. There has been MANY family members that has also been helped. Please Allow them to continue their work. This would be a great loss, for our AREA

Paul W. Jones
James A. Jones
317 Olmsted Rd
Villa Ridge, Ill.
62996
618-6973325

March 19, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I would appreciate it if Dr. Ahmad would be permitted to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. I'm 74, have leukemia & am diabetic. My husband is 78, has to be on an oxygen tank, around the clock, & is also diabetic. We have no one to help on except each other. We have been his patients, and the Eye Centers for about twenty years.

It would be inconvenient for us to travel further & could be impossible. When we moved here about 24 years ago, the eye doctor that I had gone to since 5th grade, advised me that he recommended Dr. Ahmad.

There seems to be more people moving to this area. Dr. Ahmad, the Marion Eye Center and its staff are assets to Marion. Allowing him to purchase the Marion Surgery Center would be a plus for the City of Marion.

Bob and Mildred Gill
12230 Trinidad Terrace
Marion, Ill. 62959

March 21, 2011

To Whom It may concern,

I am very upset and sadden about the possibility of having to go out of town, for the services I have been receiving at the Marion Eye Center. Dr. Ahmad and his staff have provided me with worry Free Surgery's and Follow up care. I'm a senior citizen and it would be a big hardship to have to travel out of town for these services. I feel the lack of retina services in this area will definetly have a adverse impact on people getting the procedures done they need. Also, another very important fact is the loss of Jobs and revenue in our community, which we cannot afford to lose. Please take these facts into consideration when making any decisions that will have a GREAT IMPACT on our lives and community. Thank you

Sincerely
Jean Walker

Jean Walker
PO Box 217
Energy IL 62933

To Whom this Concerns:

I have been going to Marion Eye Center for many years. I usually go every six months.

I am very pleased with going there for surgery. I have had two Cataracts removed.

It is just better where I am Concerned to go to Marion instead of Mt. Vernon.

I would like for a surgery Center to remain in Marion.

Thank You

Juanita Spears

Mrs. Juanita Spears
11889 Spowart Rd.
West Frankfort, IL 62896-5023

3-15-11

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I BELIEVE THAT DR. AHMAD BE ALLOWED TO PURCHASE MARION SURGERY CENTER. THE CENTER IS NEEDED FOR THIS AREA. A LOT OF THE CUSTOMER, WHO ARE OLDER NEED A SURGERY CENTER CLOSE IN THE AREA. THE NON-SURGERY CENTER COULD BE OPENED ANYWHERE IN ANY CITY. CUSTOMERS WHO NEED SURGERY FOR THEIR EYES DON'T WANT TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF AREA, THEY MAY HAVE TO DEPEND ON DOCTORS THEY UNFAMILIAR WITH TO HAVE THE SERVICE THEY NEED.

WE AS EYE PATIENTS NEED THE SURGERY CENTER IN MARION!

THANK YOU.

SINCERELY

Richard Phillips

March 26, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I SEE DOCTOR GEORGE ORTIZ AND IT'S CONVENIENT to have him see me and it's great location & it's easy for me.

My best
Regards
George Haege
George Haege

I oppose on the certificate

Dr Olk was near to where I live when I needed an retina surgeon.

All the good eye care is right here

Phil Gendemore
Crest Springs, AL 6279?

My eyes depend on the care I get at Marion Eye Center. I feel so glad that it is so close to my residence. I have had all my eye surgery there. Leave well enough alone.

Irene Henderson
cataract patient
Retina "
Patient of Dr. Olk
+ Dr. Ortiz.

3-14-11

Please let us keep the surgents where there at. Its a pain in the butt to have to drive far away since gas prices are so hi. Plus by the time I have eye laser (with the shot) and get home my eye hurts so bad it makes me sick so it would suck 2 have that done and be on the road. Please let us keep are place

Thank You
Amanda

P.S I don't like going to another doctor that don't really now my case so id rather have Dr. Ahmad do my surgerys

Name

Mildred L. Stapleton

10919 Saraville Rd

Marion Il. 62959

phone (618) 982-2561 Birth Date 5-8-28

I do not drive and a lot of time

I have no way. going. any place

A personal note ...

3/20/11

To whom it may concern,

Please do what you have to do to keep Marion Eye Center as is and where it is.

So many senior citizens depend on the docs there for their eye care and cannot afford the luxury of traveling beyond this area for their eye care.

The docs there at the Marion Eye Center are top notch and we are very lucky to have them.

[redacted]

(over)

A personal note ...

Vern L. Resnik
115 Woodview Dr.
Centerville, IL (patient)

Marion Eye Center,

We and the many patients of the eye center need a surgery center in Marion. Because it is not convicent to travel out of the aera.
I am hoping that we get this surgery center.

Lila Dunning

March 16, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Southern Illinois has been blessed to have such a fine facility as The Surgery Center, with expertise physicians. Because of The Surgery Center there have been many people that have not gone blind. There may be individuals that may not be able to travel further away for medical help.

Sincerely,

Erma Hollingsworth

Erma Hollingsworth

I don't think we can travel outside the area because of gas Prices. The lack of retina services Vitally needed in this area on a daily basis.

We need the surgery Center in the area.

We need the jobs in our community

I have come to this place in Marion for years and we need this place for are needs for are eyes. I would of lost my seeing if I didn't have this place real Closts We need this place we can not go to other areas for help.

The facility and the doctors operater in his experience and Integrity

We do not need the loss of revenue for are Community. We needed Marion eye Center because it is close for all of are area for all of are eyes probles and we don't wanted to loose are Doctors and all the job. We needed more jobs and eye service in the area.

NAME: Annis L. Crane

ADDRESS: 164 W. Denton

P.O. Box 225 Shawneetown Ill 62984

PHONE NUMBER: 618-269-4278

Marion Eye Center
P. O. Box 1178
Marion, IL 62050-9938

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Pool
227 Fairview Drive
Carmi, IL 62821
March 17, 2011

Greetings,

This letter is in support of keeping the Marion Surgery Center located in Marion. Both my husband and I have had the need of eye surgery. The surgery center is an hour away, but was easy to find and to return to the next day. Even though Marion is a city of about 15,000 people, we do not care to drive in larger cities or farther away than necessary. Since my husband and I are both senior citizens, convenience is a huge asset in our lives. Southern Illinois lacks outpatient services and clinics; as the surgery center offers, and this one needs to be kept.

We understand a lawyer wants to purchase the building, but the surgery center next to the eye center is a plus. The lawyers could place their offices in another location and maybe that would be better for them if they were closer to the courthouse.

We urge you to let Dr. Ahmad purchase the building to keep the surgery center in Marion. We like to shop and eat in Marion on the days we have our appointments. I will need cataract surgery on both eyes in the future and looking forward to visiting your wonderful city.

Respectfully,
Stanley K Pool
Margaret Pool
Stanley and Margaret Pool

3/15/11

To Whom It May Concern:

I would hate to see the Marion Surgery Center be sold to a non-healthcare entity and have to travel farther to have surgery for the people of Southern Illinois.

I have been a patient of Dr. Ahmad's for the past 22 years. My husband is also a patient of Dr. Ahmad & Dr. Kuppenbrock.

Please consider the needs of the people in our area.

Sincerely,

Phyllis J. Smith
1102 Highland
Benton, IL 62812
618-438-0871

Marion Eye Center & Optical
Marion, Illinois 62959

Dear Madam-Sirs:

I am deeply moved by the report of the possibly the doctors at the Marion Eye Centers will have to move out of the area. I have been a patient of Dr. Ahmad and others at the center for 25 or more years. I am
now 90 years old and cannot believe the group would not be available to me.

There are so many other people who have depended on the local facility with the doctors knowledge, experience and integrity.

This news and action deserves attention. I oppose the thought of a non physician non-healthcare entity undermining the intent of Dr. Ahmads purchase of the facility. There are too many reasons for me to list all my objections why I oppose this certification suggested.

Please register my concerns and objections.

Respectfully, Anita S Lenzini

Anita S. Lenzini
604 S. James St.,
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

March 15, 2011

March 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife Kathryn and I have benefitted from the high level professional services of the Marion Eye Center and the Marion Surgery Center for more than 25 years. We have both had surgical procedures at the Surgery Center which have dealt with serious eye conditions, and then follow up care at the Marion Eye Center. We are deeply appreciative of such skilled care, and like many people our age prefer to have our care close to home (we live in Herrin).

We believe that the city of Marion has benefitted in many ways by having both the Marion Eye Center and the Marion Surgery Center as a direct part of medical services available to a growing and somewhat aging population, and we have a hard time imagining that losing either of these facilities would benefit Marion in any way.

Since Dr. Ahmad has signed a letter of intent to purchase the building in question, it would seem that any action taken that would complicate such purchase would benefit no one except those who have some immediate financial interest unrelated to the larger interest of the larger business and financial community.

Sincerely,

Ken + Kathy Starbuck

Kenneth & Kathryn Starbuck

Marion Eye Center
Marion, Il

To whom it may concern. We are very happy with the situation as it currently stands, phyisicans of the community that we know and trust, looking after our interests. To cause even more travel, as proposed, is luderkos. Also; I do not wish to have a totally sub par retina service run by an irresponsible group, especially a nonphysician group. Our group of physicans will continue to do a fine job of looking after our interests.

The damage that can be done by this group of nonprofecionals in jobs, revenues and patients inconvenience is among the reasons we strongly oppose the group of nonproffecional from undermining the efforts of our group of very well thought of physicans.

In summary, let the physicans continue to do very acceptable work and please do not bring in another bunch of neofites to our community.

Sincerely,

Larry Munton

Larry and Friederike Munton

Friederike Munton

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
1-800-344-7058

McLeansboro
1-618-643-2650

Metropolis
1-800-344-7058

Mt. Vernon
1-618-244-2777

Murphysboro
1-618-565-1405

Nashville
1-618-327-3900

Pinckneyville
1-618-357-2020

Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
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Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D
Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. • Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D.
Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

LOREN OLSON

203 EAST 5TH

NORRIS CITY, IL 62869

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

All of The above

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

Loren Olson
Norris City Ill
618 385 1217

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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Herrin
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Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vandalia
1-618-283-7100

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Faisel Ahmad, M.D. • Omar Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • Micah Brasel, O.D. • Dolly Campbell, O.D
William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D.
Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Rachel Shewmake, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D. • Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D.
Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

MINERVA MORGAN
17522 NORTH ROUTE 37
JOHNSTON CITY, IL 62951

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

Mrs Minerva Morgan
Mr Bill Morgan

Marion eye center

You, and the surgeon and all staff done a great job. I really a appreciate you all. By the way my eye-sight has been great. I just need reading glasses not for driving with that's great. Im so glad, I choose all of you. Great job.

your patient "2010"

Alana Major

"3-18-11"

Alana Major
401 E Webster
Benton IL 62812

Dear Sir

I support the sale of the Marion Eye Center to Dr. Ahmad The location creates jobs and revenue for our area. It also close to many area towns and most patients don't have to travel very far. I oppose the purchase by a non-health care entity

Robert Zekovich
Christopher, Ill. 62822

Robert Zekovich
911 N. Victor St.
Christopher IL 62822

3-15-11

To Whom This May Concern:

Please be advised that my husband and myself have been patients of Dr. Ortiz for many, many years. We have both had to have different retina surgeries done.

As our work places changed insurances we were always able to count on the Marion Eye Center for accepting our new policies.

Being able to have all our needs met thru one facility each time has been very helpful. It would be hard on our budget to have to travel to another area for our services we require.

We hope you allow the Marion Eye Center to purchase the facility they have used for over 25 years.

We personally, would not use the services of a new health care service were it to take Marion Eye Care Center in Carbondale.

Charles M. Deaton
Elizabeth Ann Deaton

Sparta, IL. 62286

Giesela G. Rilk
1410 W. Boulevard
Apt A
Marion Fl. 62959
ph. 618-993-1828

3-20-2011

Marion Eye Center.

I was a Patien of Dr. Ahmad in 1994 to 1996. now I'm with Dr. Olk. on regular basis I have to see Dr. Kippenbrock. this Dr. are exelent and compassion. I'm 83 year old and have problem with transportation we need this Dr. on daily basis there would also be a loss of Jobs and Revenue in this Area.

So please leave a good think about. for this Community and Patiens.

sincerely yours
Giesela G. Rilk

Please
City Council

This is Mrs. R. Restivo, I am very much concerned about the Surgery Center being moved. It would be such a shame to have this moved & we would have to travel somewhere since I have to have some one to bring me, & since I am under Dr. Olk at this time & I've surgery with Dr. Ahmad. Please let it stay. I'll being be praying to God that it stays.

May God always Bless
Love -

Ruby Restivo
2816 N 13th St.
Herrin, IL 62948-3514

God Bless
Mrs. Restivo

3/19/11

I am opposed to a non healthCare entity purchasing the Marion Eye Center. It would be inconvient for patients to travel to get treatment, especially senior citizens.

Maxine Kendleman

1-618-565-1405

Nashville
1-618-327-3900

Pinckneyville
1-618-357-2020

Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
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1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

ALL OF THE ABOVE

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

LEAVE A GOOD THING ALONE

Thank you for your support.

George Dankey

3-19-2010

Marion Eye Center
Marion IL

We would be limited on distance of travel, should the Center move any farther from Marion. Trust they can stay, as I'm sure we aren't only ones with this problem.

Robert & Lillie McGowan
215 Fiddler Ridge Rd
Murphysboro IL 62966

05-17-2011

Dear Marion Eye Center

I would like to start by telling you that I cannot travel a long way to see my doctor. I cannot afford the money that it would cost and I don't have any other way to get there.

Also, it would be an inconvenience for me and all of the other patients.

Sincerely,
Patsy L Walker

05-11-2011

Dear Marion Eye Center,

I would like to start by telling you that I cannot travel a long way to see my doctor. I cannot afford the money that it would cost and I don't have any other way to get there.

Also, it would be an inconvenience for me and all of the other patients

Sincerely,
Ronda S. Hoock

Let a qualified Eye
Doctor buy marion
Eye doctors building
I shouldn't have to
go beyond marion
for my Eye
care

Leroy Wallace

March 19, 2011

To whom it May Concern:

I oppose the sale of Marion Eye Center to the non-health care entity. It is very important to me to see my Dr. Ortiz remain in Marion. I'm a senior citizen and do not wish to travel out of town for services I have been a patient of Dr Ortiz for many years. I will not patronize any new non-physician person that comes in this area.

Sincerely

Barbara Magnuson
1025 Blackman Hill Rd.
Harrisburg, IL 62946

Barbara Magnuson
1025 Blackman Rd
Harrisburg, IL 62946

March 18-2011

Dear Sir-

My husband & I are both wheel chair patients & are unable to travel to Marion for our eye problems. It's like 5 miles west of Carbondale & want the eye Dr to stay in this area -

Please consider this as I know lots of other patients are just like us.

Thank You

Aaron Blessing

&

Mary Alice Blessing

To

Illinois Health Planning Board

RE – Marion Surgery Center

Please do not take this Center out of the hands of Dr Ahmad + his fellow surgeons..

It would force me + many others I know to travel greatly added miles + deprive us of the presence, close by, of a group of capable + experienced doctors / surgeons.

It would be a huge loss to our community.

Kenneth D. Koenig

Ken Koenig
810 W. Kennicott
Carbondale, IL 62901

March 17, 2011
Harrisburg Ill.
130 Williams Rd
62946

Dear Sir,
I read the letter & will gladly answer & say the following.
I have used the Harrisburg doctors for several years. It was very helping & the best to have a convenience of living close to my home.
I am legally blind & have appreciated the services so close to me & lack of services & so far for me to travel & get the excellent care I have with my eye care.
It would be an inconvenience to me to not have the services near me

Thank You
Mrs Genevieve Nelson
C-618-252-6193

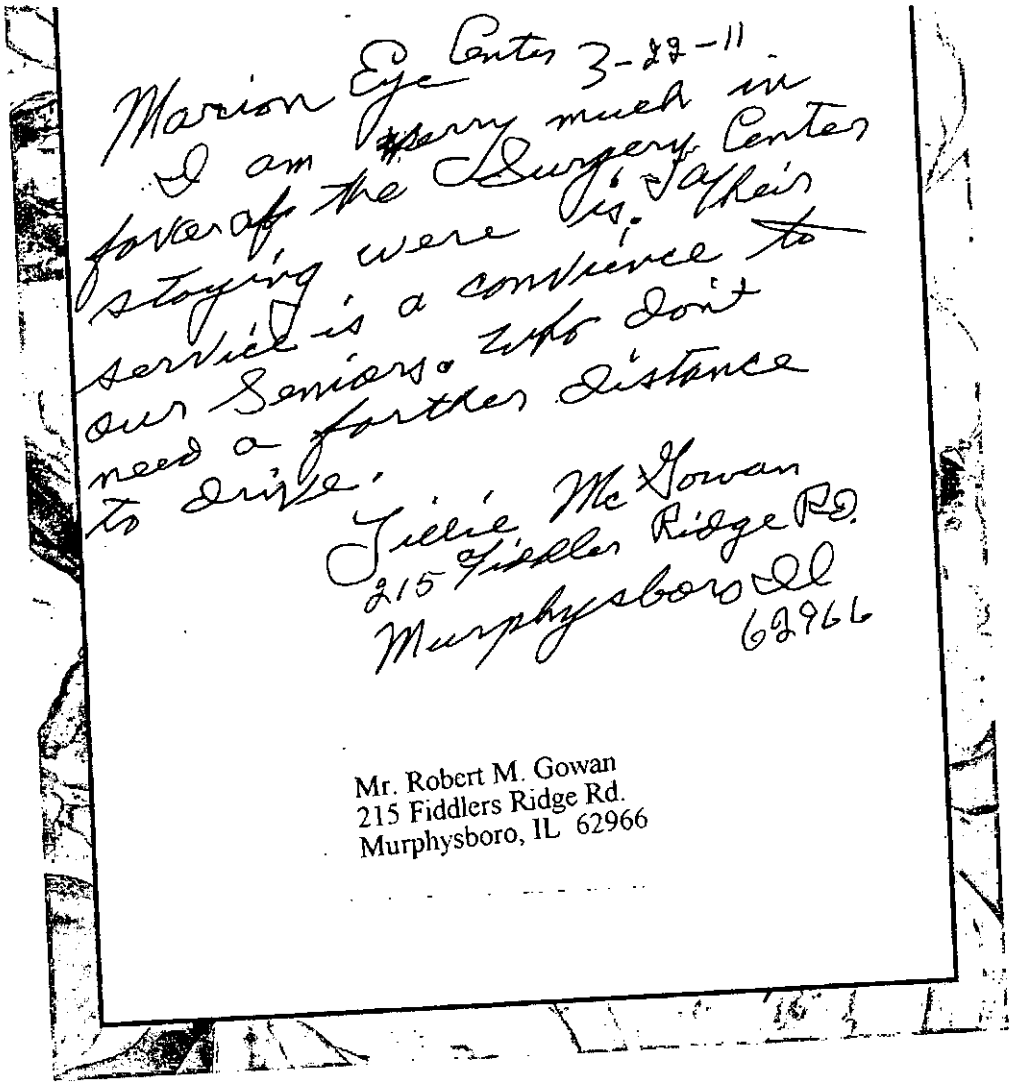
Genevieve Nelson
130 Williams Rd
Harrisburg Ill.
62946

3-22-11

Marion Surgery Center
Marion Ill.

We are convinced the Marion Surgery Center should stay where its at & convinced to our Seniors— and young people. and expect it to be at present location when we need service as have several times in past.

Lillie McSwan
215 Fiddler Ridge
Murphysboro Ill
62966



Marion Eye Center 3-22-11
I am very much in favor of the Surgery Center staying where it is. Its convience to our Seniors who don't need a further distance to drive.

Jillie McGowan
215 Fiddlers Ridge Rd.
Murphysboro Ill
62966

Mr. Robert M. Gowan
215 Fiddlers Ridge Rd.
Murphysboro, IL 62966

3/21/11

To whom it may concern:

It would be inconvenience to my husband Joe Siefert and myself Jo Ann Siefert if the surgery center was moved to another location. We are both in our late 70's Eyes are not as good as they use to be, makes driving rough. Loss of jobs and income for community will be taught too. Let them keep the surgery center. We need it

Joe & Jo Ann Siefert

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support for the physicians of the Marion Eye Center. It is very important that we keep them in our area.

I defendly oppose for an outside non health care keeping them & moving them from the area.

I am a widow on a fixed income & appreciate the convenience of their service.

Respectfully yours,

Mrs. Ruth Payne

Mrs. Ruth Payne
785 Feazel Rd.
Harrisburg, IL 62946

Dear Marion Eye Center

As a long time patient of your Doctors, with Retinal Surgeries, I am Very Concerned about the need for a Surgery Center There in Marion.

It is an inconvenience to Most patients to travel out of the area for Surgery, especially the older people and the disabled.

If We have a Surgery Center in Marion, there is enough patients With Retina eye problems, Cataracts Ect. to Keep the Surgery busy. It is a Very much needed Center.

I also believe that the decision and ownership of the Surgery Center should not be made by Someone who has no part in healthcare. It should be Made by those with some Experience With healthcare and Concern for The Many eye care patients of The area.

We cannot afford to lose this much needed Center.

Sincerely

Bibby Downing

March 15/2011

To Whome it Concern:

I ~~co~~ cannot see why in the world you would want to run a Surgery Center out of Marion; that has been there 25 year.

This makes it hard on us old people having to go to Mt Vernon for Surgery. Just like myself having to go to Mt Vernon March 17/2011. I am 77 yr old and my wife is 68. having you put us on the road when we could have went to Marion. I live in Goreville Ill Eight miles from Marion or 46 miles to Mt Vernon. I know there are a lot of people at my age going to have to do the same.

I would like for you to consider the facts before you run them out of ~~Town~~ town.

Clayton J Harrison

Clayton J. Harrison
45 Eagle Claw Pt
Goreville, IL 62939-3176

Dear Sirs:

For some years now I have been going to Marion Eye Center for my eyes. I have Diabetes and I have to have my eyes checked.

I live in Anna Illinois and I have my glasses made for me in Anna, but I have to go to Marion Or Three or four times a year to have my eyes checked.

I am 91 year old and I have no way of getting to Marion. My Daughter & Son in law take me. I drove myself for years, but now I have to have help.

I don't know what all do if they move the Marion Eye Center.

Louise Kelley
311 Lincoln St
Anna Ill. 62906

To

Dear Sirs:

I am a patient of the Warren Eye Center. I do not want them to leave as it would cause a great inconvenience, revenue, and time. I believe many of the patients would not continue with their eye care if these doctors were to leave our town.

Sincerely,

S Ramos

2011
Dorothy Cluck
410 W. Illinois Ave.
Carterville, IL 62918

March 16 - 11

To whom it may concern:

Although I have had cataract surgery on both eyes I will probably not need that service again. But on the other hand there are many who do need it & to have to travel out of the area is not Right or Easy for a lot of people.

Since I know of one other place to have it done. I would like & not like to do that & I'm sure there's others who feel the same way.

So please keep this Eye Center Open. Southern Il. is loosing to many business that we need in our area Especially - Marion, Herrin & Carterville - Hurst - Bush & Cambria

Thank you Sincerely

Mrs. Dorothy J. Cluck

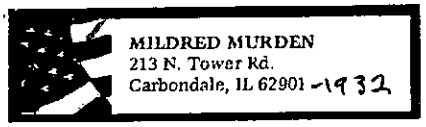
Mrs.
Dorothy Cluck
410 W. Illinois Ave.
Carterville, IL 62918-1341

3-14-2011

Marion Eye Center:-

I am replying to the letter about Marion Eye center up for sale and Dr. Ahmad wanting to buy it. I am not in favor of trading out of the area for services. I live in Carbondale and I am 87 yrs old and would not like to travel out of my area for service. I don't like the idea of ownership and decision making by non-healthcare entity.

Mildred Murden
213 N. Tower Rd.
Carbondale, Ill.
62901-1932



To whom it may concern:

I feel that Dr. Ahmad should get to take ownership of the surgery center. I would not feel comfortable for myself nor my family members going to a surgery center that is run by Mr. Osman, a lawyer.
Please take this into consideration when making your final decision.

Thank you.

Emily Spence

To whom it may concern:

In regards to the surgery center, I feel that Dr. Ahmad should be the owner of this facility. Dr. Osman is a lawyer and I don't feel as the knowledge to run a surgery facility as well as a licensed physician, who currently owns a surgery center. I would feel much better knowing myself and my family was being treated and cared for at a surgery center that is run by a medical doctor.

Please take this into consideration when making your final decision.

Thank you.

Kathy Hatton

April 28, 2011

I would like to express my concern over Mr. Ronald Osman purchasing the Surgery Center in Marion, IL.

How can an attorney intend to purchase a medical facility, with his limited or no knowledge at all of how to run a facility such as this? Will he be concerned that the patients who come to the facility be treated with the best possible care? Is he concerned that some patients will not be able to use this facility because some doctors will not be allowed to practice there? Is he worried about how inconvenient it will be for patients to travel even farther to get eye surgery? Is he even thinking about what is in the best interest of the patient at all?

These are valid questions that I believe should be considered when it is decided who purchases the Surgery Center. Dr Ahmad, owner of the Marion Eye Centers has always been about his patients, what is in their best interest. Dr Ahmad has invested a lot of his time and concern into many communities in the Southern Illinois area so those patients who need good quality eye care can get that in their area. His intent to purchase the Surgery Center in Marion, Il. is yet another gift of his concern for the community, for those patients who need eye surgery.

I implore you to take into consideration not who should purchase this facility but who would be acting in the best interest of the patient's in this area. Based on my arguments above I greatly oppose Mr. Osman's intent to purchase this facility. I do not believe his concern is for the patient or the community but for his own personal gain. If that is the way Mr. Osman wants to conduct business, the patient's will pay the ultimate price. When one acts for selfish reasons of their own, and does not consider the well-being of others or consider what would be best for others, only what he intends to gain, your decision should favor Dr. Ahmad.

Thank you for your time.

Darlene Seger

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that Dr. Ahmad is interested in purchasing the Marion Surgical Center. I feel that this would be a huge asset to our community.

Dr. Ahmad is a leader in his profession and has a very high standard for himself and his employees.

Thank you,

Ray M. Dahla

618 - 316 - 4235

To the planning board of surgery center

I am patient at Marion Eye Center. I had both of my cataracts removed by Dr. Ahmad. He did a great job.

I hear that an attorney in Marion, Osman is trying to buy the surgery center where I had my surgery. This is bad. It does not make any sense that a non medical person should operate a surgical facility.I will stay with my doctor for future surgeries. It will be hard for me if I have to travel. I request the board to consider not to sell the surgery center to an attorney.

Thank you,

Bashir A. Mughal

Bashir Mughal

117 north lark lane

Carbondale,IL 62901

618-549-5239

March 27, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Sell of Marion Surgery Center

I have been a patient of Dr. Ahmad and the Marion Eye Centers for many years. He has provided superior eye care for me and successful eye surgery. Being a diabetic and a transplant recipient, I need his level of care and expertise in helping me to manage my eye care and diabetes especially when it comes to being proactive with my vision. He repaired a detached retina that occurred as a result of my diabetes.

Dr. Ahmad has demonstrated a high level of professionalism in running his business. Due to the specialization of eye care, I feel that someone without years of committed experience in this field will not be able to oversee the same type of care I have become accustomed to receiving from Dr. Ahmad, a practitioner trained in eye care and the co-owner and operator of Marion Eye Centers. I would feel more comfortable and be willing to continue to receive my eye care from Marion Eye Centers if I know a doctor and in particular Dr. Ahmad, is the administrator of the Marion Surgery Center.

When looking at the big picture, I believe a medical doctor would have a greater sensitivity toward my health care and the team of doctors involved with my health care than anyone else would; and I would feel more comfortable with a medical doctor, such as Dr. Ahmad, occupying the position of head administrator and owner of the facility where, if needed, I will receive future eye surgery procedures.

I would feel more comfortable with Dr. Ahmad, a medical practitioner in eye care, leading the team of health care professionals at the Marion Surgery Center.

Tariq A. Khaaliq Sr.

Tariq A. Khaaliq (patient)

To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing in regards to Dr. Ahmad's desire to purchase the Marion Surgical Center located in Marion, IL. As a Broker Associate real estate agent in Mt. Vernon, IL, I can attest to Dr. Ahmad's commitment to the people of the Mt. Vernon by the state-of-the-art facility he has had constructed to provide great eye care for this area.

I feel the city of Marion would be fortunate to allow Dr. Ahmad to purchase the Marion Eye Surgical Center.

Sincerely,

Connie J. Lee
618-231-3901
Broker Associate
Cross Davidson Real Estate

Apr. 2. 2011 10:54AM No. 9239 P. 5

April 1, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I believe that the Marion Surgical Center should be purchased by Dr. Ahmad. He is a very well-known and respected Doctor and I feel it would be a very large asset to our area.

I know many people who have been treated by Dr. Ahmad and they each have praised him very highly. I also know other Doctors, personally, who work for Dr. Ahmad, and they have the utmost respect for him and his work as well as his work ethics.

In my opinion, Dr. Ahmad is the best candidate for ownership of the Surgical Center in Marion, Illinois.

Sincerely,

Christina Duncan

Christina Duncan

618-266-7814

Mr. Michael Keepper
1309 North Park Avenue
Herrin IL 62948-2725
Home Telephone: 618-977-5458 cell
Daytime Work Telephone: 618-942-6109
Home E-Mail: mkeepper@juno.com
Work E-mail: keepper@shawls.lib.il.us

24th March 2011

Marion Eye Centers
PO Box 1178
Marion IL 62959-9938

Subject: Support of the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center
RE: Oppose the Certificate of Need Exemption filed with the Illinois Health Planning Board by the non-physician healthcare entity

I wish to express my support of the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center) by Dr, Magbool Ahmad and other physicians of the Marion Eye Centers.

I also wish to express my opposition to the Certificate of Need Exemption filed by a non-physician healthcare entity in order to block the sale of the Marion Surgery Center to Dr. Ahmad and the Marion Eye Centers.

If the exemption is approved, it will cause great inconvenience for patients in the Marion area because they will have to travel farther to obtain much needed retina services which are needed on a daily basis. It will cause a loss of jobs in the Marion area as well as loss of revenue. It will also jeopardize the future of the Marion Surgery Center.

To Whom it may concern: please deny the Certificate of Need Exemption application and allow the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center by the Marion Eye Centers.

Thank you.

Michael Keepper

Michael Keepper

March 29, 2011

RE: Illinois Health Planning Board Hearing

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to voice my concerns regarding the purchase of the Southern Illinois Surgery Center. My biggest concern quit simply is that the two parties involved are a physician and a non-physician and the choice should be clear. The question that I think needs to be asked is how can an individual who is not a physician and has had no medical training ultimately make decisions that will affect patients health care. Mr.Osman may have a great business mind, but that knowledge will not serve him in guiding doctors under his employ to the best care possible. Emergent questions will come up, that will require a snap decision from the owner of the facility. I feel that patient care will suffer if a non-doctor is allowed to purchase; consequently I would not feel confident in putting my trust or my families in someone with no background in healthcare.

The clear choice seems to me to be the physician, simply because he has the medical knowledge to make the best decision for the patient. Also with a large existing medical practice, patient care and a solid patient base can only insure the Surgery Centers future success. Situations that require an immediate decision can be made with knowledge and confidence so that there will be no lasting and grave consequences. I believe that the only choice to make is that of a physician owned Surgery Center.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A Concerned Citizen and Loyal Patient

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to Dr. Ahmad's desire to acquire the Marion Surgery Center for use by his business. My connection with doctor Ahmad comes from being a realtor in Mt. Vernon. The doctor has done business with our agency in buying and selling business property. He has built a clinic on property we sold him. The clinic is a very attractive and busy facility that I would consider an asset for our city. I believe the city of Marion would be wise to sell their surgery center to Dr Ahmad.

Sincerely,

Carl Miller, Realtor, Crews Real Estate

Apr. 2. 2011 10:54AM No. 9239 P. 3
931-735-4

First State Bank of Olmsted

P.O. Box 98 - Olmsted, Illinois 62970

ROBERT A. REICHERT
Vice President
Member - Board of Directors

March 24, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board
c/o Marion Eye Center
PO Box 1178
Marion, IL 62959

Dear Board Members,

It has recently come to my attention of an attempt to prevent Marion Eye Center from purchasing their current surgery center in an effort to maintain surgical services in Marion. Needless to say I am concerned about this recent development.

I live in rural Grand Chain, Illinois and am a client of Marion Eye Center. On July 12, 2010 I had an appointment scheduled for an eye exam in Marion. Upon examination of my eye it was determined that I was suffering from a tear in the retina of my left eye. I was fortunate that the doctor conducting my exam was qualified to perform lazer surgery at the facility. Had this company not had that capability I would have been forced to travel to another site in hopes I could be worked into its surgery schedule. The potential for further damage to the eye prior to treatment existed.

It is my hope that the Illinois Health Planning Board will take into consideration the importance of Marion Eye Center's services to Marion and the surrounding area. I hope that patients in Marion and the surrounding area, who have experienced the same issues I have, will continue to be able to receive the vital treatment provided by Marion Eye Center.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Reichert
Vice President

Gallatin County Veterinary Service

14401 Highway 1
Ridgway, Illinois 62979

Phone (618) 272-7660
Fax (618) 272-3961

March 23, 2011

Marion Eye Center
P O Box 1178
Marion, Il 62959-9938

Sirs:,

In Southern Illinois, (south of Interstate 64) the only things found in abundance are poverty and unemployment. I find it hard to believe that anyone would object to the doctors of the Marion Eye Center being allowed to purchase the Surgery Center. Dr. Ahmad and the other surgeons provide a valuable service at a reasonable price, within a short driving distance for their patients. I fully endorse their attempt to purchase the property.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patrick B York

March 22, 2010

Marion Eye Centers
PO Box 1178
Marion iL 62959-9938

Dear Sir,

As patients at your facility, my wife and I have greatly benefited from your skills and cannot understand why anyone, anywhere would not welcome your expertise and benefit locally from you talents. My family and I will always be grateful for the order and beauty restored to our lives in returning our visual acuity.

It distresses me to think anyone would not understand that, along with your skill, you bring a great service to the community. We came there from Arkansas so being convenient is not a question for us. We came 300 miles to trust your skills and would love to have you in our community or close to it. We have a great need here also as we live in a "senior community". Being a patient, I saw first hand how we and many others use the motels , pharamacies, and restaurants while there. I am sure you contribute a great deal to the economy of the area.

We love you and your wonderful institutional creation and would probably never have visited Marion if it had not been for you. I can see what the huge loss to the area would be in jobs and revenue as well as an unusually unique much needed service.

Whatever happens, please let us know, as we will follow you wherever we can and wish nothing but the best for you and a long life and prosperity.

Your patient and admirer,

Charles E Miller

Charles E. Miller
USCG, retired

Charles E. Miller USCG ret.
1413 emerald cove dr.
Horseshoe Bend Ar. 72512

March 27, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Court, Williamson County Illinois

FROM: Phyllis J. Laster Khaaliq

RE: Purchase of Marion Surgical Center

For over 16 years, my family has looked to Dr. Ahmad and the team of doctors at Marion Eye Centers for our eye care. Dr. Ahmad has been an excellent administrator of the Marion Eye Centers and I believe his leadership skills will transfer to the Marion Surgical Center. I believe it will be in the best interest of his patients, including me, who have come to expect a quality of care from him that would be endangered if the ownership of this health facility is transferred or purchased by someone else.

With Dr. Ahmad being the head administrator of the Marion Surgical Center, the relationships that have been formed with his patients, making us feel inclusive in an atmosphere of professionalism and quality eye care will not be compromised, and will flow from the Marion Eye Centers to the Marion Surgical Center. Dr. Ahmad is a skilled surgeon that has expertise in eye surgery and years of clinical practice/service in running the Marion Eye Centers. The skills Dr. Ahmad possesses will be transferable to the Marion Surgical Center.

The community needs a health care administrator with a proven track record of professionalism and quality health care service to purchase and lead this health care facility.

Thank you.

April 1, 2011

To whom it may concern,

It is my understanding that Dr. Ahmad would like to purchase the Marion Surgical Center in Marion, Illinois. I would like to recommend Dr. Ahmad to be the owner of that Surgical Center.

I have known Dr. Ahmad in a business relationship for several years and have always found him to be very professional and amiable. He demands the highest of standards in his business.

He is a very well-known specialist in his field and is highly respected in this community.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Duncan

Charles R. Duncan 618-231-4735

March 27, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have just been told that the Marion Surgical Center is for Sale. My eye specialist, Dr. Ahmad wants to purchase the Marion Surgical Center but someone else wants to purchase it also that does not have expertise in eye care or a vested interest in the patients who will receive their eye care at this facility.

Someone that cares for the patients and have a vested interest and expertise in eye care would be best to own the Marion Surgical Center. My little girl, Megan, has been a patient at the Marion Eye Centers since she was born. She is now 9 years old. I have been a patient of Dr. Ahmad's since her birth. I chose him because of his good reputation. I acquired Eclampsia during child birth and suffered a minor stroke that affected my vision. He has provided my family with exceptional eye care since 2001. If I were to need surgery, I would want Dr. Ahmad and his team of professionals to provide my health care needs at Marion Surgical Center.

Thank you for considering Dr. Ahmad to be the new owner/administrator of the Marion Surgical Center.

Sincerely,

Madlynn R. Walker

Madlynn R. Walker

April 1, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I feel that it would be best to have Dr. Ahmad own the surgical center since he is a very well-known specialist in his field.

He is a highly respected Doctor in this community.

Sincerely,

Brad N Herman 618-242-5100

April 1, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in reference to the Marion Surgical Center.

I feel very strongly that it would be in the best interest of the community to have Dr. Ahmad own the surgical center since he is a very well-known specialist in his field.

He has a very good reputation and is highly respected in our community.

Sincerely,

Sonya Siemann 618-249-4669

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to oppose the sale of the surgery center to Mr. Osman.
I have known Dr. Ahmad for over three decades. In that time, I have seen his passion for not only excellence but also his passion for helping others. He has successfully conducted cataract surgeries on multiple family members of mine. He has also done numerous good works for our community. I truly believe that Dr. Ahmad would be the ideal person to run a surgery center since he is experienced, caring, and intelligent.
I hope that you will sell this center to the man who is certainly qualified to operate it, Dr. Maqbool Ahmad.

Bushra Saqib

Bushra Saqib
513 Abelson Drive
Carmi, IL 62821

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in reference to the purchase of the Surgical Center in Marion, Illinois:

I am convinced that the best owner of this center is Dr. Ahmad.

He is a highly respected member of the community and a leader in his profession.

It makes perfect sense to have a Doctor be an owner of a Surgical Center.

Sincerely,

618-242-0308

March 15, 2011

To Whom It May Concern —

I have been going to the Marion Eye Center for the past 25 years. I sustained a very serious eye injury and at that time had to travel to St Louis to receive the care I needed do to the lack of this service in our area. What a relief to my wife and I when Marion Eye Center came to the area. If Marion Eye Center were to close it would not only be inconvenient, but would cause job loss, and revenue to the Marion area. Dr. Ortiz and his staff have provided outstanding care the past 25 years. If it's not broke why fix it?

Sincerely,

Mike Harriss

Mar 17 - 2011

To all our Doctors

I'm 100% for your support. It would very inconvenience for me. Also for my family. For they would have to take me. they all work. they would have to miss work

The work should stay when its at.

Sincerely

Virginia Davis

3-16-11

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in support of the Marion Surgery Center remaining at it's current location in Marion. Without this location patients would be forced to travel a great distance. When you are dealing with your vision, it is important to be able to have a close site where a doctor or surgeon is available. Losing this location would also mean a loss of jobs and revenue for Marion.

Please allow Marion to remain at its current location.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Sutton

49 Gold Drive

3-17-11

Marion Eye Centers + Optical,

I am strongly opposed to your office-surgery facility moving to a different location. I like the convenience of the Doctors surgery facidity in marion, because I value their experience.

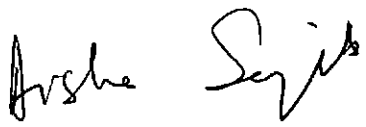
It would be inconvenient for me and for many other patients if the Doctors had to move this service to another location out of marion.

I'm sure it would affect many jobs and revenue for the community as well.

Sincerely
Joyce Hanson
P.O. Box 195
DeSoto IL 62924

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to oppose the sale of the surgery center to Mr. Osman.
Dr. Ahmad is a family friend and also my eye doctor. Over the many years I have known him, I have seen that he is someone who takes great pride in his work. He successfully operates over 20 offices in the surrounding areas. He clearly holds the experience needed to run this surgery center, but beyond that, he is one of the most caring, intelligent, and trustworthy people I know.
To me, the choice is obvious; Dr. Ahmad is clearly the more qualified and experienced candidate and should be the one running this surgery center.



Aisha Saqib
513 Abelson Drive
Carmi, IL 62821

April 1, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I would like to recommend Dr. Ahmad to be the owner of the Marion Surgical Center in Marion, Illinois.

He is a very well-known specialist in his field and is highly respected in this community. He has a great reputation for his outstanding work.

I feel this would be a real asset to our area.

Sincerely,

Sandra J Miller 618-244-1179

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to oppose the sale of the surgery center to Mr. Osman.
I have known Dr. Ahmad my entire life. He is a man who has a passion for excellence but also compassion for others. He is a man of integrity who has done multiple good works in the community such as giving scholarships to those in need. He is a man that has had the experience of operating a surgery center so he would obviously know how to run another one unlike someone who lacks that experience.
I do not think there would even be a more qualified man to run a surgery center than Dr. Maqbool Ahmad since he is clearly compassionate, intelligent, and, most importantly, experienced.

Maryam Saqib

Maryam Saqib
513 Abelson Drive
Carmi, IL 62821

April 1, 2011

To: Whom it may concern

Dr. Ahmad would like to purchase the Marion Eye Surgical Center located in Marion, Illinois.

I have met Dr. Ahmad and find him to be an astute engaging physician and businessman. I suggest that he would be a good choice to purchase the Marion Eye Surgical Center and that he would likely maintain the same high standards that he has in the 32 facilities that he owns in Southern Illinois and Southeast Missouri.

Sincerely

K L Cannon 618. 214-1547

K. L. Cannon

To whom it may concern

I am writing this letter about Marion surgery center. I had both my cataract surgeries by Dr. Ahmad. He is a great surgeon and a very good man. I am very pleased with my surgeries.

I am very much against the sale of the surgery center to Attorney Osman. Why should a lawyer own a surgery center? I have heard bad things about Osman in the local news paper regarding the school district and grain co. With his back ground, I am very suspicious about his motives. I will go where ever my doctor will take me for surgery in future.

I hope the board will stop the sale to Osman.

Rubeena Mughal

Rubeena Mughal

117 north lark lane

Carbondale, IL 62901

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D
Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. • Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D.
Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

es - *Illinois*

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- *Missouri*

rardeau
1-5200
on
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lluff
6-5866
2-8181

I am a patient of Dr. Ahmad and I recently had to have a Cataract removed. Since the Marion Surgery Center was no longer available, I had to travel to Mt. Vernon, Il. to get this done, It was very inconvenient for me since I am not familiar with the City of Mt. Vernon and it is farther from my home.

The doctors at Marion Eye Center are very experienced since they have been doing surgery in Marion for several years, I would like to see them purchase the Surgery Center and continue using it because it is an asset to the Community by providing service to many patients in So. Illinois + other areas.

NAME: Cliffa D. Bee

ADDRESS: 515 SOUTH 3RD ST
RIDGWAY Il. 62979

PHONE NUMBER: 618 272-7172
CELL 313-0941

To MARION EYE CENTER
PO Box 1178
MARION, IL 62959-9938

SIRS:

I don't WANT to lose MARION EYE (SCA) SURGERY CENTER. WE NEED HERE AND DON'T WANT to have to GO ELSEWHERE FOR OUR SURGERY NEEDS. This would be VERY UNFORTUNATE for this AREA AND THESE FINE SURGEONS. LETS KEEP this SURGERY CENTER HERE.

SINCERELY
JAMES C. LANE
James C. Lane

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regard to an attorney in Marion who has tried to undermine the purchase of the Southern Illinois Surgery Center by the Marion Eye Center.

If he succeeds, it will force the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center to go elsewhere to perform surgery.

This will cause great inconvenience to the patients, especially those who need their services on a daily basis, such as the retina services.

We will greatly appreciate anything that can be done to ensure the SCA stays where it is now.

Sincerely,

Charles & Wanda Huite

To whom it may concern,

Marion Eye Center has served my family and the community for the last thirty years. Their surgeons have been performing surgery for the last fifteen years in Marion surgery center. I support their intention to purchase Marion Surgery Center. I urge Illinois Health Planning Board, not to let a non-healthcare entity interfere with this purchase, so that surgeons at Marion Eye Center continue to give provide the best eye and retina care close to home.

Sincerely,

Durri Javed

Durri Javed
4241 State Highway 14 West
Christopher, IL 62822

To whom it may concern,

I have been going to Marion Eye Center since I was in kindergarten. They have provided me with excellent care. I support their intention to purchase Marion Surgery Center, so that they continue to provide surgical care to the patients of this community.

Sincerely,

Atif Cheema

Atif Cheema
1201 East Clark Trail
Herrin IL, 62948

March 31, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a patient of Marion Eye Centers for over ten years now. Marion Eye Centers is a locally owned and operated health care provider. It is important for the local community that the surgery center be locally owned and operated. This prevents loss of jobs in our community and is more convenient for the patient.

Sincerely,

I cheema

Ismat Cheema

1201 E Clark Rd
Herrin IL 62948

Marion Eye Centers and Optical

March 14th. 2011

It has come to my attention that an outside source is trying to purchase Marion Surgery Center.

I have had surgery twice at the center and have been very happy with the results of the surgery performed by Dr. Ortiz. My wife Linda will be soon be going through the same surgery.

I am opposed to another entity taking it over and having to travel further or go to another surgery center.

Retina services is vitally needed on an ongoing basis.

We certainly do not need any job or revenue loss for Southern Il.

Curtis R. Hawkins

Linda Hawkins

We

March 15, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a very concerned patient who has been under the care of a couple of the Dr.'s in the Marion Eye Center for several years.

I am writing in opposition of allowing a non-physician non-healthcare entity to purchase the Marion Eye Center.

We cannot allow anymore of our Dr.'s to leave our community and go elsewhere.

I had an experience with Dr. George Ortiz about 13 yrs. ago. I had Fuchs Cornea Dystrophy. This is a very serious condition, of which you can lose your eyesight if nothing is done. Because of the seriousness of it I wanted a second opionion. I went up to Barnes in St. Louis and saw Dr. Pepose. After his examination of me, I then asked Dr. Peopose the same questions that I did Dr. Ortiz. He answered them very knowledgable as did Dr. Ortiz, but with no concern or compassion. Needless to say, I chose Dr. Ortiz over Dr. Peopse and have not been sorry. I would hate to think that I would have to go that far to be seen on regular basis.

If this purchase is allowed to go through the patients will be the losers again.

A lot of these patients will be greatly inconvenienced with the distance that they will have to go to see their Dr. or the lack of experience with a new one, if that is what they choose.

We cannot afford to lose anymore jobs in our area and the loss of revenue for our communities.

I strongly urge you to deny that this will not be allowed to happen.

Michael Stafko

Michael Stafko
4147 St. Hwy 148
Mulkeytown, Il. 62865

Ronnie D. Partain
Rt. 1 Box 186C
Golconda, IL 62938

March 16, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Marion Surgery Center

Please let this letter serve as my opposition to the approval of the Certificate of Need for the non-physicial non-healthcare entity, which has been submitted to the Illinois Health Planning Board.

Dr. Ahmad has monitored and treated my eye problems since the early eighties. He, and his group do a wonderful job for the people of Southern Illinois. It would, indeed, be a hardship for the elderly and disabled persons in this area to be forced to go out of this area for our eye surgery needs.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ronnie D. Partain

209 S. Wedgewood Lane
Carbondale, Illinois 62901
March 16, 2011

Members of the Illinois Health Planning Board:

For twenty-two years, my husband, Gerald, and I have received eye health care at the Marion Eye Centers. We both have required surgeries at the Marion Surgery Center, and as aging takes a toll on our eye health, we need prompt, competent, and convenient care. The doctors at the Marion Eye Center and Surgery Center have served us well.

It would be a hardship for us to have to travel to a distant surgery center for our eye care. The doctors at the Marion Surgery Center are experienced, competent, and compassionate. They keep abreast of the latest surgical procedures and are at the ready when an emergency arises, such as a detached retina.

My husband and I support the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center by Dr. Ahmad for continued use as the eye surgery center. It makes no sense to allow the sale of the surgery center to a non-healthcare, non-physician entity. Why uproot known and respected and much needed eye surgeons who have been serving the people of our area for more than twenty-five years? There are many people of modest means here who might have to forgo necessary surgery simply because it was not available nearby.

The loss of the Marion Surgery Center would also mean the loss of jobs, for the surgeons need a large support staff. We trust you will take seriously all our needs when you make your decision.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth Kissell

Ruth Kissell

Elizabeth Eastman-McRoy
12700 Hudgens Road
Marion, IL 62959

March 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Marion Eye Centers and Optical's proposed purchase of the Marion Surgery Center. I have been a patient of this facility for many years. I have had two cataract surgeries, two laser treatments, and multiple examinations and tests. Over the years, I have been fortunate to have my procedures and tests done locally and return to my own home.

I am extremely concerned that patients in this area would have to travel farther to have their surgeries done when they could continue to have these services locally. There is a large number of support staff who help maintain this facility and whose jobs would be affected. This would have a negative economic impact on Marion and the surrounding areas. As you also know, when people come to this facility they usually make stops at local restaurants and other businesses.

The current and continued use of the Surgery Center seems to be in the best interest of the patients who use this facility and the staff who work there. Please give this your consideration and support when making your decision

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Eastman-McRoy

Elizabeth Eastman-McRoy

Mrs Loreda Dill
1900 Julianne Dr
Marion, IL 62959-1438

March 13, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written in support of the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center by the physicians of the Marion Eye Center. My husband and I had eye surgery in Marion and know firsthand how important it is to have competent eye care professionals available locally.

Thanks to the fine Marion Eye Center and Marion Surgery Center professionals, we see just fine; and, we can see through the attempt to use the Illinois Health Planning Board to close a business deal. It seems ridiculous to even think about granting a "certificate of need" to an unknown non-physician non-healthcare entity in an attempt to undermine purchase of the Marion Surgery Center. This looks suspiciously like a business "deal" that has nothing to do with eye care or health planning for the benefit of the good people of the Marion area.

Please continue to serve the good people of the Marion area by keeping the Marion Surgery Center in the competent hands of physician-centered healthcare professionals. Please oppose the attempt to undermine the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center using an Illinois Health Planning Board certificate of need. We support the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center by the Marion Eye Center.

Sincerely,

Loreda Dill
1900 Julianne Drive
Marion, IL 62959

John O. Hudgins
150 White Tail Road
Murphysboro, IL. 62966

March 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to endorse the sale of the Marion Surgery Center to Dr. Maqbool Ahmad, M.D., and his excellent group of professionals. This group has a proven track record of providing for 25 years of superior patient care and surgery. It is very evident from the large number of patient testimonials that this medical group is well thought of and they have provided a great service to the Southern Illinois Communities.

There are many number of reasons this group, Marion Eye Centers, should be shown favorable consideration. The foremost reason is patient care and availability of a wide range of optical treatment locally. Once again this has been made evident by 25 years of service.

It has been proven time and time again that private enterprise and local management is far more superior and efficient than outside management. This group has proven its intent by making an offer to purchase the Surgery Center.

One could and should list some of the many other reasons for continuing the services of the Marion Eye Centers. These would include patient convenience, loss of specialty services by known professionals, local ownership, economic considerations, including job security, bringing outside persons to the community to dine, shop and spend the night. Continuation of the Surgery Center by the group known as Marion Eye Centers is a known entity, professionally and economically. They should be allowed to continue their presence in Marion, IL.

Satisfied Patients

John O. Hudgins

John O. Hudgins

Jeanette Hudgins

Jeanette Hudgins

March 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I have just been informed that the Surgery Center building in Marion has been put up for sale. Further, it has been said that Dr. Ahmed of Marion Eye Centers has shown interest in the purchase of that building, to be used by the surgeons of Marion Eye Center for their patients. The purchase by Dr. Ahmed would be of great benefit to the patients of Marion Eye who have need of the surgical procedures. It would mean that they do not have to travel out of the area to obtain those much needed services.

I have been a patient of one of the doctors at Marion Eye Center's office in Marion for seven years, since I moved to Carterville. It is convenient for me to get to this office; hence, if I need the services of the surgery office in Marion, it would be most comfortable as well as convenient, to get those services close to home.

To summarize, I am in favor of Dr. Ahmed and the doctors of Marion Eye Centers being able to purchase and operate this facility as a surgery center. I am opposed to a non-physician, non-health entity purchasing this facility.

Yours truly,

Mickey Joffe

Mickey Joffe
11980 Hafer Road
Carterville, IL 62918
(618) 988-6829

Marion Eye Centers
To Whom It May Concern: **March 14, 2011**

I am writing in concern for keeping our excellent eye physicians. I had to travel to St. Louis for eye services some time ago and it is too inconvenient in many respects. We are blest with great specialists here and we want to keep them. We are so happy with our surgeons locally. Please do not allow them to be forced to leave the area. What a tragedy that would be.
We strongly oppose this certificate.

Respectfully,

Wanda Jackson

Wanda Jackson
Carterville, Il
985-6335

MARCH-14-2011

ILLINOIS HEALTH PLANNING BOARD

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

RE:MARION SURGERY CENTER
MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

DR. MAGBOOL AHMAD, MD. HAS BEEN MY AND MY WIFE'S PERSONAL EYE CARE SURGEON FOR MANY YEARS. HE IS ABSOLUTELY THE BEST.

IN 1982 MY DAUGHTER INJURED ONE OF HER EYES. WE CONSULTED A ST. LOUIS DOCTOR AND INQUIRED IF WE SHOULD TRANSPORT HER TO ST. LOUIS. WE WERE TOLD IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME BECAUSE WE HAD THE BEST EYE SURGEON IN FIVE(5) STATES RIGHT HERE; DR. AHMAD.

DR. AHMAD TOOK ME IN UNDER EMERGENCY CONDITIONS, WITH COMPLICATIONS OF A STROKE ON ONE OF MY OPTIC NERVES AND SAVED MY EYESIGHT FROM DIABETIC RETINOPATHY.

HE HAS ALSO REMOVED CATARACTS FROM BOTH EYES AND IMPLANTED INTRAOCCULAR LENSES IN BOTH. BOTH AT THE MARION SURGERY CENTER.

ALTHOUGH I LIVE IN MURPHYSBORO, THE CENTER IS CONVENIENT. IT IS AWAY FROM HIGH TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

AT LEAST EIGHTEEN(18) OTHER DOCTORS ARE EMPLOYED BY DR. AHMAD. ALL GOOD, HIGH-PAYING JOBS. IF THE CENTER IS FORCED TO MOVE A GOOD NUMBER MIGHT LOSE THEIR JOBS OR BE FORCED TO TRAVEL DAILY.

MANY PATIENTS, INCLUDING MY FAMILY WOULD BE GREATLY INCONVENIENCED IF THE CENTER MOVES

I UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OTHER ENTITY HAS APPLIED FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR THAT LOCATION. THAT ENTITY QUITE SIMPLY CANNOT MATCH THE SEVERLY PRESSING NEED FOR THAT LOCATION AS DR. AHMAD AND HIS STAFF OF DOCTORS AND NURSES AND THOUSANDS OF PATIENTS DEPENDING UPON THEM.

ON BEHALF OF MY FAMILY AND ME I BESEECH YOU TO CONSIDER THAT STATED HEREIN TO REPRESENT OUR NEEDS AND DESIRES. OVER THE YEARS I HAVE SPOKEN TO MANY OF DR. AHMAD'S PATIENTS. I KNOW THEY WANT THE CENTER TO REMAIN AT IT'S PRESENT LOCATION.

PLEASE DENY THE OTHER APPLICATION, KEEP THE SURGERY CENTER IN PLACE.

SINCEREELY,

Thomas D. Gahagan
Optical and Surgical Patient

March 12, 2011

RE: Letter of Opposition

As a recent patient of eye surgery at Marion Surgery Center, I am more than pleased with the care I received.

I oppose any sale of the facility by a non-healthcare entity. This would cause great convenience as I would continue as a patient of Dr Umana.

Therefore, I wholeheartedly support the present doctors and staff.

Thank you,

Marilyn K Summers

Marilyn K Summers
4270 N Cooley Ln
Bonnie IL 62816

ELIZABETH CULPEPPER

306 E 5th

West Frankfort, IL 62896

618-932-3553

March 24, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of support for Dr Ahmad and his fine staff that have served our community for over 25 years. He has served this area with the latest procedures available.

I applaud his vision securing new physicians and growing with the times. He has provided the staff and they should have the surgery center they deserve to serve our needs.

I personally see Dr Olk with a condition known as Macular Degeneration. I am so grateful to know that there will now be Retina Specialists that I can depend on and not have to travel to St Louis should I require emergency treatment.

I do not want a lawyer to make decisions about my medical facility.

Sincerely,

Betty Culpepper

Betty Culpepper

PAUL CULPEPPER

306 E 5th

West Frankfort, IL 62896

618-932-3553

March 24, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a patient of Dr Ortiz and have glaucoma. I depend on him and his staff to provide the most up to date treatment available.

I fully support Dr Ahmad and his staff trying to purchase the Southern Illinois Surgery Center. It seems imperative that we have these services in our community.

We are so fortunate to have these doctors on staff and to think that they are adding two new doctors that specialize in Retina so we do not have to travel to Cape or St Louis.

During this economic downturn, we need to embrace every job opportunity and realize how many jobs this surgery center will provide.

Sincerely,

Paul Culpepper

Paul Culpepper

Mrs. Gwen Anderson
1015 N Market St.
Marion, Il. 62959

March 28, 2011

To Whom it may concern,

In June of 2011 I will have worked at the Marion Eye Centers for eleven years. During this time I have worked hard along with the staff and physicians to provide excellent care to many wonderful patients. This care has allowed many of these patients to continue to be independent, therefore, giving them the ability and dignity needed to continue to preform the daily activities of life despite chronic conditions that limit their eyesight. Due to the excellent care along with personal attention that they have received at our practice, the majority of our patients have developed implicit trust in their physician.

However, many of our patients share a common problem. Due to age, chronic illness or both many of those we care for have a limited income and are also limited in their ability to obtain reliable transportation. In view of this, many of our patients find it difficult or impossible to travel out of the area for medical care. Therefore, to limit access to surgery in this area to patients who have developed trusting relationships with our physicians would be a great disservice to those who are an integral part of our communities in Southern Illinois.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Gwen Anderson

Gwen Anderson

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Flora
1-618-662-3202

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
1-800-344-7058

McLeansboro
1-618-643-2660

Metropolis
1-800-344-7058

Mt. Vernon
1-618-244-2777

Murphysboro
1-618-565-1405

Nashville
1-618-327-3900

Pinckneyville
1-618-357-2020

Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vandalia
1-618-283-7100

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Faisel Ahmad, M.D. • Omar Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • Micah Brasel, O.D. • Dolly Campbell, O.D William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Rachel Shewmake, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D. • Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

JEANNETTE WUYSTER
PO BOX 512
DONGOLA, IL 62926

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

3-26-11

BUY THE SURGERY CENTER, IT IS NEEDED.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

Jeanette D. Wuyster

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

P.O. Box-512
Dongola, Il, 62926

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
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Benton
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Staff

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

DONALD SPOONER

16050 WILLIAMS PRAIRE RD.

JOHNSTON CITY, IL 62951

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have. — I support all the following reasons below — and hope Marion Eye Center can purchase the Marion Surgery Center

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

Don Spooner
3.27.16

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

9/25/11

Dr. Ahmad,

Thank you for helping others by reducing the expense of eye surgery to not only individuals but to the state medical plan.

Thank you for keeping you in our community.

Thank you for caring about people.

It would be a disgrace to see our Marion Eye Surgery Center to be used for anything other than a benefit of our mission to see the world.

To the attorney who will not release his name or intentions to our State agency — he needs to remain an attorney and not step into the healthcare field of helping others.

Sincerely,

NAME: CAROLYN RINANDO

ADDRESS: PO Box 475

HERRIN IL 62948

PHONE NUMBER: 618-201-1278

3-25-2011

To whom it may Concern:

I am in support of Doctors and Staff of Marion Eye Centers and Optical in their purchase of Marion Surgery Center

Greg Farris

NAME: Greg Farris

ADDRESS: 902 West Maplewood
Marion, IL. 62959

PHONE NUMBER: 618-997-2498

MARCH 28, 2011

THE NEED FOR THE EYE SURGERY CENTER IS VITALLY NEEDED IN MARION . DR.AHMAD MUST BE ALLOWED TO PURCHASE IT.

THE MARION EYE CENTER MUST HAVE THIS SURGERY CENTER

TO CONTINUE THEIR EXCELLENT MEDICAL EYE SERVICES TO US .

WASEF AND ANN ELQUDSI

15029 BRADLEY LANE

MARION IL 62959.

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

MARY BLESSIN

103 W 4TH

WEST FRANKFORT, IL 62896

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- ✓ • Inconvenience to the patient
- ✓ • Patients having to travel outside the area
- ✓ • Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- ✓ • Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- ✓ • Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- ✓ • Unknown future of the surgery center
- ✓ • Loss of jobs in our community
- ✓ • Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

I fully stand for the Surgery Center To still have its business stay in Marion People won't have to drive further. Sincerely M. Blessin

March 28, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I want to express my feelings of the possibility of losing the Surgical Center in Marion.
I have personally used the center for 2 eye surgeries, and many of my family have also used it because of the convenience of not having to go a great distance. From experience I know the problems of having to travel when your eyesight is in need of specialized treatment. Persons that need the serevices probided by the eye center is less difficult for those with existing problems that would need further travel for those already having impaired vision. Before that facility was available my mother had to go to St. Louis which is a problem for elderly people.
Southern Illinois needs to keep the service for the economy of the area.
I sincerely hope that we will be able to used the surgicenter rather than travel out of the area for excellent care.

Thank you.

Darline McNeil
712 South Walnut Street
Sesser, Illinois

Darline McNeil

IL Health Planning Board

I recently had eye surgery, I traveled to Mt Vernon to have it done, I live in Herrin. I was able to travel there, the older men and woman, people that do not have any transportation or anyone to take them, this would be difficult, the price of gas is terrible. Marion is a growing city. Lets keep our eye care growing locally. Doctors should be making medical decisions not lawyer let them take care of the justice system. Don't let our area lose a great eye center. Our area is hard pressed for jobs don't add to this problem. the people who work at the Marion Eye Center are caring people who know their jobs and are very good at it. Don't let this opportunity pass by for the city and county.

Thank You
Glenda Tripp

NAME: Glenda Tripp
ADDRESS: 1420 West Monroe St.
Herrin, IL 62948
PHONE NUMBER: 618-694-3055

To Whom it Concerns

Our surgical Center is wonderful
Please leave them alone
They are doing a good job

NAME: Wanda Campbell
ADDRESS: 1061 Bessie Rd
Benton, Ill. 62812
PHONE NUMBER: 438-3000

03/31/2011

To Whom it May Concern:

I believe that Dr Ahmad would greatly benefit on being the soul owner of the surgery center for southern Illinois area. It will be a convenience to our patients in the surrounding area, jobs provided for people in the area and revenue gain for the community. I feel that Dr Ahmad has a heart for his patients and needs this building more than any other person. I would appreciate that you consider my thoughts for this situation.

Sincerely

Cassandra L Waddell

Cassandra L. Waddell

Retha Eurales
PO Box 694
Cairo, Il 62914
April 1, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I am a palient of the Marion Eye Center. I drive an hour and sometimes an hour and a-half to make it to my appointments every month to see Dr Ahmad. It takes someone to drive me back home sometime after treatments. I have a eye desease called Telongiectasia and a Cataract. I will need to have surgery in the future. We in Southern Il. need the Marion Eye Surgery Center. There are some who drive for 2 - 3 hours to get here who are elderly and sick. I am 57 and can only imagine how I would feel being elderly coming so far. So Il (lower south) does not have a lot of Specialty Centers like this for surgery. Dr Ahmad and his team care about us and try to provide the best eye care that they can for us. The Quality of Life is what is so important and seeing is a great part of that. So those of you who are trying to purchase the Surgery Center from under Dr Ahmad and his team are wrong. God sees you and knows your every thought. You all have Parents, grand Parents other relatives, Childen and Maybe yourselves that maybe someday will need this service.

Sincerely,
Retha Eurales
4/1/11

CAREY C. GILL
201 Twin Lakes Rd.
Carterville, IL 62918
(618) 985-4442

April 1, 2011

Health Planning Board

Via Facsimile & U.S. Mail

Re: Marion Eye Centers & Optical

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter regarding the Certificate of Need that was applied for relating to the Marion Eye Center. I strongly oppose the Certificate of Need.

I have been a patient of Marion Eye Center for numerous years. I first became their patient when I was interested in Lasik eye surgery. However, during my pre-surgery visit, the doctors of Marion Eye Center discovered I had a torn retina. It was an emergency and they immediately performed surgery to correct the problem. The surgery was done that day and saved my eyesight.

It is important for Marion Eye Center to be able to expand their surgery center and practice in Marion, IL. The local community needs retina services (as well as other services) on a daily basis. I was lucky, there happened to be a retina surgeon at Marion Eye Center that day, but he was only in the office once (or perhaps twice) a week. Had I arrived on a different day, I would not have received that surgery immediately, and it would have jeopardized my eyesight.

Had the doctors of Marion Eye Center not been able to perform the emergency surgery in Marion, I could have lost vision in my eye. I am certain I am not the only patient that has been helped by the fact that the doctors of Marion Eye Center can perform surgeries in Marion, IL.

It is also a great convenience to have surgeons available in Marion to take care of eye issues. It would be inconvenient and costly to travel to other places, like St. Louis, MO or Springfield, IL to receive the same kind of quality care that Marion Eye Center offers. That is added time and expense for the patients. Having patients in Marion also helps the economy of Marion, because we often buy gas, eat dinner, or shop before or after eye appointments. Personally, when my eyes are dilated, I have my husband take me to dinner, until I am able to drive home.

APR. 1. 2011 7:16AM BARRETT TWOMEY NO. 3387 P. 1

If Marion Eye Center were to expand and be able to perform more surgeries it would mean added jobs in the community. That is a huge benefit, especially due to the shape of the economy.

For the reasons stated above, I vehemently oppose the Certificate of Need. It is vitally important to the residents of Marion, Williamson County, and all of Southern Illinois that the doctors of Marion Eye Center continue to perform surgeries in Marion, IL.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinions with you. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact me at the number listed above or email me: at cgill@btbhh.com.

Very truly yours,

Carey C. Gill

Carey C. Gill

CCG/

March 29th, 2011

To the attention of The Illinois Health
Planning Board
and
Whom It May Concern

I am a patient of Dr. Ortiz of the Marion Eye Center. I have had glaucoma for approximately 12 years. My problem is hard to treat and I go every 4 months. I also have cataracts and will need surgery in the near future. My Father and Mother, Carl and Ferne Reed of Creal Springs both were patients of Dr. Ortiz for glaucoma and had cataracts taken off both eyes. With treatment being so near, both were able to retain some vision. My Maternal and Paternal Grandmothers both went blind from glaucoma and cataracts. If the Marion Eye Center had been in our area they could have saved their vision. Losing your vision is a rough road to travel. When people get to this stage, they have the disadvantage of being elderly and driving a long distance is a hardship that some cannot overcome. Not everyone has a child or someone to take them.

My husband, is 79 and I am 76. He has cataract surgery scheduled May 16th in Mt. Vernon, then he will have the other eye operated on later. I have cataracts but since my cataracts haven't gotten to the point his has, that makes me the driver. Mt. Vernon is more than a hour from us. In other words, it is almost a case of the blind leading the blind and all because a certain Attorney has gotten greedy and thinks of his self and the mighty dollar first. There can be no other reason for his actions. His actions are disgraceful.

As you are the Illinois Planning Board, I can only pray that you give your consideration to the elderly citizens that are depending on you and look further into this Attorney and his true intentions before you give him any credibility.

I believe my husband and I and all others like us, deserve better and closer to home treatment when it is possible and you have the capability of seeing that we keep it. Our area went too long without advanced medical and visual health services. Why should it be taken away now? We have faith in our Doctor and we have faith in the Marion Eye Center. We will not go to any other.

Respectfully Yours,

Waldron L. Brown
Carolyn A. Brown

Waldron L. and Carolyn A. Brown
17563 Sulphur Springs Road
Creal Springs, Illinois 62922

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

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Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

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Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Faisel Ahmad, M.D. • Omar Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • Micah Brasel, O.D. • Dolly Campbell, O.D William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Rachel Shewmake, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D. • Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

EVERETT JEARLDS
11155 CEDAR GROVE RD
MARION, IL 62959

Everett Jearlds
Juanita Jearlds

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

March 22 - 2041

I had to travel so far to get My Eye Surgery in both Eyes. I think it would be great for the New Surgery Place to open in Marion, Il.

Susan Rich

NAME: Susan Rich

ADDRESS: 1101 W. Main St
Marion, Il.

PHONE NUMBER: 618-694-6932

3/20/11

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS LETTER IS BEING WRITTEN ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SURGERY CENTER IN MARION, IL. IT WOULD BE A HUGE DETRIMENT TO THE ENTIRE SURROUNDING AREA OF MARION TO LOSE THIS SURGERY CENTER.

I PERSONALLY HAVE NOT HAD TO HAVE ANY SURGERY DONE, BUT SHOULD IT EVER BE A NEED I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO USE THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SURGERY CENTER IN MARION. MY MOTHER , KATHLEEN RITCHEY AND MY MOTHER AND FATHER IN LAW, LESTA AND HERSCHEL OLIVER HAVE BOTH BEEN ABLE TO USE THE CENTER, AND TRAVEL TIME FOR US WAS IN REASON. I WOULD CERTAINLY HATE TO SEE THIS FACILITY BE TAKEN AWAY FROM MARION. WE LIVE ABOUT 35 MILES FROM MARION AND WOULD HAVE TO TRAVEL MUCH FARTHER IF THIS CENTER WAS NOT AVAILABLE.

ANYONE USING THE MARION EYE CENTER , WOULD MUCH RATHER HAVE THEIR NEEDS MET NEAR HOME THAN TO TRAVEL A GREAT DISTANCE.

I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO COMMIT TO THE SURGERY TEAM THAT WE HAVE AVAILABLE AND MAKE THE SALE TO THEM SO THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE USING THE MARION EYE CENTER SURGEONS IN OUR OWN AREA.

Sharon Oliver

SHARON OLIVER

CONCERNED CITIZEN

Cypress IL 62923

Ms. Janet Jackman
700 # E. Mohan St
Carterville, Il 62918
3/20/2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to oppose the selling of Marion Eye Center Surgery center in Marion, Il. I have been a patient of their surgery center and found the surgery and treatment of the utmost professional care. Normally I would probably have to go to the St. Louis or Cape Girardeau area, and find this of great inconvenience! I have also had retina problems before the establishment of the surgery center, and was told to go to 1 of the 2 locations mentioned above as soon as possible if there was a loss of vision. Care of the retina is extremely important, as not everyone has someone available to just stop what they are doing and drive someone to St. Louis for emergency care. I would think your community would hate to miss out on a great loss of revenue, as well! There are plenty of other locations suitable and available for this non-physician non-healthcare facility. Chances are, if these Marion Eye Center surgeons have to build a new surgery center, it will probably affect all patients financially in order to help pay for their new increases in rates.

I ask you again to please reconsider the selling of this state of the art facility to a non-healthcare establishment and let them continue to provide quality care and services to those of us living in Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Janet Jackman

Janet Jackman

J. C. Garavalia
800 So. Skyline Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901

3-14-11

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE ACQUISITION OF THE MARION SURGERY CENTER BY THE MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL.

MY LATE MOTHER AND FATHER AS WELL AS MY WIFE AND I HAVE ALL BEEN SURGICALLY TREATED IN THAT FACILITY BY THE MEDICAL STAFF OF THE EYE CENTERS.

THE SURGERY CENTER IS CENTRAL TO THE ENTIRE REGION SERVED BY THE EYE CENTERS. TO IMPEDE THAT SERVICE WOULD BE AN INCONVENIENCE TO THE PATIENT POPULATION.

I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT A DECISION BE MADE THAT WOULD ALLOW THE EYE CENTERS TO PROCEED WITH THE PURCHASE OF THIS FACILITY.

J C Garavalia
618/457-1057

Leo V. Tippey
P.O. Box 284
Cambria, IL 62915

March 14, 2011

Illinois Health Planing Commission

Re: Application for Certificate of Need

Sirs,

The purpose of this letter is to voice my concern and objection that a private non-healthcare entity is trying to undermine the intent of Dr. Magbool Ahmad M.D. and his associates purchase of Marion Surgery center

Dr Ahmad and his associates have been providing their services for this community for more than 25 yrs. The sale of this facility to someone else will curtail their ability to provide their surgical services to this area. This would mean a loss of jobs and revenue at a very difficult economical time.

Marion Eye Center, and Dr. Ahmad and Associates have provided excellent care to this community, and I would like to have them continue. These services and needs are provided without having to travel long distances.

We don't need non-physician non healthcare people regulating the cost of services.

Please do not approve the request for a Certificate of Need by the adversaries of Dr. Ahmad and Associates

Respectfully

Leo V. Tippey

2755 Hwy. 1
Elizabethtown, Il. 62931
March 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern.

I am writing this letter for my support for Dr. Ahmad to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. I oppose the certificate from the Illinois Health Planning Board for a non-physician - non-healthcare entity.

I am a 74 year old woman that has had three surgeries on my left eye at the Marion Surgery Center. Because of the doctor experience and integrity, I am willing to travel to Marion since it is in our area.

I have to travel 55 miles one way to get to Marion and with the price of gasoline, I would be unable to travel any further, should they have to relocate out of the area.

This would be an inconvenience to me and all the senior patients because most of us are on limited income and Social Security. Also, I am concerned this would cause loss of jobs and revenue for the community.

Sincerely,

Claudine M. Ogea

211 Heritage Road
Carbondale, IL 62903

March 14, 2011

Marion Eye Center
P.O. Box 1178
Marion, IL 62959-9938

SUBJECT: Illinois Health Planning Board Certificate of Need

Dear Administrator:

The Marion Eye Clinic has provided essential service to our community for more than 25 years and it has become a solid health resource in a region which frequently endures a lack of qualified and experienced health care providers. This letter requests that you do not issue any certificates of need that would prevent the surgery center from becoming fully operational and able to dispense its full array of services

We need this facility and many of our senior citizens would not be able to travel any further than they already do for eye care and remedies. Please do not take this critical resource from us. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Joan Langowski

Joan Langowski
Concerned Patient and Resident

March 15, 2011

To Whom It Concerns:

I am writing this letter in support of keeping the Marion Eye Surgery Center in Marion. It would be very inconvenient for senior adults to travel to another area to have their eye surgeries. In the past several years I have had to have cataract surgeries and eye lid lifts to improve my vision.

I have been greatly pleased to have the services of the Marion Surgery Center doctors at my disposal in the Marion area. It is not always possible to have the quality of doctors and the expertise of these eye specialists so close home.

It also concerns me that a loss of jobs in the Marion community is also a possibility if the Center is no longer in the area. With unemployment so high, we cannot afford for more jobs to be lost, as well as loss of revenue for the community.

Please reconsider the possibility of a non-physician and a non-healthcare entity buying the Marion Eye Surgery Center. I think it would be a great mistake in doing so. The future of many patients who rely on the services of the retina clinic on a daily basis is so important to the city of Marion and the outlying areas in Southern Illinois.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lamoine Callais

Lamoine Callais

[Click here and type return address]

March 12, 2011

Marion Eye Centers
PO Box 1178
Marion, IL 62959

Dear Sir or Madam:

It has recently been brought to my attention that a non-physician non-healthcare entity has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board with an intent to purchase and a certificate of need. It is my understanding that if this transaction and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and other personnel will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area.

The doctors at the Marion Eye Center have taken care of my family's visual health needs for many years. It would be very inconvenient and sometimes outright impossible to travel outside the area for needed services. I urge you to turn down this proposal.

Sincerely,

Karen Swain

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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1-618-833-8359

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Carbondale
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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

JUNIOR ABNEY

147 KAREN ANN LANE

CARRIER MILLS, IL 62917

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

Junior Abney

Opal Abney

Untitled

March 25, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to the Illinois Health Planning Board receiving a Certificate of Need for the purpose of purchasing the current Marion Surgery Center.

This sale would mean loss of jobs in the community, loss of revenue for the community and patients would have to travel outside the area which is an inconvenience especially to senior citizens. It would also cause a lack of retina services which are vitally needed in the area on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

Barbara Swinburne

Barbara Swinburne

March 22, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this to voice my opposition to the issuance of a "certificate of need" for the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center.

I am IN FAVOR of the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center by Dr. Ahmad. In my opinion the said purchase will benefit Dr. Ahmad's patients (of which my wife & I are) by providing a) local source for necessary services
b) reduction of travel expense and time for such services
c) maintenance of relationships with current Doctors providing care
d) economic benefit of local area through salaries and job opportunities

Thank You,

Harry Van Dermark & Phyllis Van Dermark
1503 Beech Road
Du Quoin, IL 62832

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

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MARGARET BUSH
1525 SOUTH ROCKY COMFORT RD
MAKANDA, IL 62958

I feel the Southern Illinois Surgery Center should remain available for use of the patients in the Marion area. Please let Marion Eye center purchase the building ~ Margaret Bush

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

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The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

On Behalf of Dr. Maqbool Ahmad and the Marion Eye Center, I would like to add my support that their request for intent to purchase of the Southern Illinois Surgery Center be honored.

I personally have had two eye surgeries successfully performed by Dr. George Ortiz at this facility and my husband , also, had eye surgery performed by Dr. Ahmad at the Southern Illinois Surgery Center. We greatly appreciated having this extremely delicate surgery done near our home by our trusted surgeons.

An important consideration for older adults in this matter at time of surgery is the advantage of less travel time, reducing extra expenses and the related underlying stress involved in dealing with unknown professionals.

This surgery center is an asset to our local communities and it would be well for all concerned to keep it in the hands of established local physicians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Betty O. Ingram

Johnston City, Il.

March 25, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board

This letter is written on behalf of the Marion Eye Centers & Optical.

My mother Zoe M Crawford has been a patron of this facility for 5 years and she lives in Calumet City, Illinois. Dr Ahmad and his competent staff supported my mom from double cataracts to glaucoma. She has to live with me because she also has Alzheimer's disease and I have a home in Thompsonville. I've chosen to continue my mother's optical needs at Marion Eye Centers because, as a caregiver, I trust their experience, honesty and integrity.

Marion Eye Centers and Optical has serviced the optical needs of our geriatric community in the Southern Illinois area for more than 30 years and should be able to continue their quest to continue this pursuit.

Sincerely,

Debra G Beach-Craig, PhD

773-343-2084

PATSY DALTON

306 N. Line St.
P.O.Box 351
Creal Springs, Il. 62922

March 25, 2011

Marion Eye Centers
P.O.Box 1178
Marion Il. 62959

Dear Marion Eye Center

Sorry but I will not be able to attend the hearing. I am writing this letter in hope that it will help. So to whom it may concern. I think it would be a blessing for the Marion Eye Center to purchase the surgery center. I would hate to think by the eye center not purchasing the surgery center that people in are area may lose jobs with the economic the way it is. That is the last thing your community needs. I've had to have eye surgery and it was convenience for me and my family to stay in your home area and not have to travel and have the added expense for gas , food, and if needed a stay in a strange area . I would hate to think the trust I have gain with the Surgeons, Doctors, and Nurses over the years that I've been going to the eye center would be loss.

Sincerely,
Patsy Dalton
Signature

3/23/11

To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose giving a Certificate of need Exemption to the Attorney in Marion, IL.
We need our eye surgeons to be located locally + not have to travel outside the area.
We feel Marion Eye Center has the patients best interest at heart + should not be given to a non-healthcare entity.
Our area cannot afford to lose this business and the loss of jobs + revenue to our communities.

Thank you for your consideration

Carla Hedger
2201 North St
Harrisburg, IL 62946

March 23, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Marion Eye Centers and Optical

My wife (Elda Ruckrigel) and I (Robert Ruckrigel) both have been using the MEC facilities for a good ten years. Both of us have had surgeries performed by surgeons at MEC. My wife has had cataract removal from both eyes and both done at the Southern Illinois Surgery Center (Marion Surgery Center). More recently she has had cornea transplants done on both eyes – one at the Southern Illinois Surgery Center and two at the MEC surgery facility in Mount Vernon. My surgeries were both for glaucoma and were performed at Carbondale Memorial Hospital.

Since we live in rural Johnson County about seven miles southeast of Vienna, IL, the drive to Marion is reasonably convenient. And considering our trust in both doctors (Drs. Umana and Ortiz) we feel it necessary to travel to wherever they can do their procedures. There is no disputing the fact that a surgery center in Marion would be most convenient for us versus Carbondale (another 12-13 miles) or Mount Vernon (another 46 miles). This was especially true this summer when my wife's cornea transplant surgery was postponed for two weeks due to problems encountered at the Mount Vernon facility. Plainly we had to make TWO 150-mile round trips to accomplish one procedure.

In our eyes it makes common sense for MEC to have major surgery facilities centered in Marion, IL. The present Marion Surgery Center is not only convenient to those of us needing work done there, but it is also so convenient to the main facility in Marion relative to follow-up appointments on the day of surgery or soon after.

We hope that the "powers that be" give strong consideration to the proposal by the owners of MEC to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. Having the surgery center owned by outside people would generate considerately more paper-work in the areas of scheduling of the facility and in processing insurance payments. These in turn would likely increase the costs for MEC and the patients.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Robert and Elda Ruckrigel
3340 Stockdale Lane
Grantsburg, IL 62943
(618) 658-5512
(618) 559-3824 (cell)
elda.bob@hotmail.com

Robert Ruckrigel
Elda Ruckrigel

To Whom It May Concern

I have been a patient of the Marion Eye Center for the past 15 years, as my parents were before me. The convenience of this facility means I do not have to travel out of our area to receive treatment. I have had several procedures done and if it were located in another area there would be a problem in travel. Before I had to travel to St. Louis and now I have the same excellent care and closer to home.

I find it troublesome that there would decisions made by a non-health-care company of persons. I,also, feel that ownership and the decision making process should be in the hands of a qualified person.. If this decision is made people like my Doctor would only be forced to do surgery out of our local area. If this should happen, the loss of money in the community and most certainly the loss of job would be a HUGE tragedy.

I had to use the facility just recently and I can say how thankful it was as close as it was. My Doctor was able to do the procedure without a lot of red tape or decision made by someone else. I certainly and most definitely OPPOSE THE CERTIFICATE OF NEED. Why bring in outsiders when you have the BEST to run the BEST?

Thank you
Sincerely,
Judith K. Bell

Judith K. Richey Bell
Box #341
Benton, Illinois 62812

March 15, 2011

To Whom This May Concern:

I'm writing this letter Concerning the eye Care & Surgery we need close to home. As a Patient I have received excellent eye Care. If I had to travel & not being able, to go to the Surgery Center close to home. This would not be a good solution for me. I appreciate all our Doctors on staff & they do excellent work & are very caring towards there patients. Therefore having Surgery is much better for us, & to get excellent Care we are receiving close to home. So in Closing: I feel we need our Surgery Doctors still at the Surgery Center in Marion, Ill. Thanks

NAME: Cynthia Tyler

ADDRESS: 16825 Pittsburg rd.

Marion, Ill. 62959

PHONE NUMBER: 618-997-2109

405 Lakeshore Drive
Carterville, Illinois
Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Marion Eye Centers
PO Box 1178
Marion IL 62959-9938

Ladies/Gentlemen:

I can't understand why anyone like myself in the Marion, Carterville, Energy, Herrin, or even Carbondale area needing physical attention to his or her eyes should need to go way up to north of Marion for it. We've been well satisfied with the service in Marion.

Sincerely,

Duncan L. Lampman

Duncan L Lampman

March 18, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Both of us have had eye surgery within the last year. We were very pleased with our physicians, led by Dr. Ahmad, with the Marion Eye Center of Marion, IL. It would be very inconvenient if their facility would move out of this area. We strongly oppose this purchase & certificate & would not want this optical center forced to leave.

Please give this consideration for their many patients.

Bert Ozburn
Murphysboro, IL

Carolyn Ozburn
Murphysboro, IL

March 18, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Many members of our family utilize the Marion Eye Center in Marion. We oppose any reason for them to have to move out of this area. It would present a hardship as for us as my husband & I are in our 90's.

Please consider the long-time association the doctors of the Marion Eye Center have had in this area & the trust many patients have placed with them.

Thank you for this consideration.

Julia Wood

Julia Wood
Murphysboro , Illinois

19 March 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

We, the Southern Illinois community want the Marion Surgical Eye Center to remain as a Facility for eye surgery. It is a central location for many areas around Southern Illinois, Kentucky, and Indiana.

Many patients in the community are elderly and unable to travel a long distance. We also need the employment in the area.

Sincerely,

Evelyn M Musgrave

2575 West Striegel Road
Carbondale, IL 62901
March 18, 2011

Marion Eye Centers
P O Box 1178
Marion, Illinois 62959-9938

I received your letter concerning the possibility of losing your Marion Surgery Center location in Marion, I have been a patient of your services for a great number of years and it would be very inconvenient for me to have to travel a greater distance.

I feel it would impose a hardship on many people in this area to travel farther with the high cost of gasoline, especially the elderly on fixed incomes with eye problems. Loss of jobs in the community, with the high unemployment rate would be a blow to our area.

It is my hope that you may continue to serve the area in your present location.

Sincerely,

Edward Blair

March 16, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board
Springfield,
Illinois

Sir:

I'm writing this letter to support Dr. Ahmad's purchase of the Marion Surgery Center, located in Marion, IL. It is very convenient for his patients to travel to Marion for eye surgery. There is a wide area of the state that is serviced by this facility. It would be very inconvenient for his patients to travel the additional mileage to Mt. Vernon for surgery.

There are no other options for us in the Southern area, and it would be better for the eye Doctors to use a facility they have always used. In case of an emergency, time of travel is most important.

It would be more beneficial for health care providers to own the surgery center than for another group out of the health care industry to do so.

Sincerely,

Janice L. Johnson
485 Stag Drive
Anna, IL 62906

To Whomever it May Concern,

My husband and I are writing this in response to a letter from the Marion Eye Center. This letter informed us of changes that may be make concerning the location of the Center.

We are both Senior Citizens and reside in Norris City, Illinois. My husband has had several surgeries on both of his eyes. The first one was when he was 38 years old and it had to be performed in St. Louis, MI. That was quite an experience. Not only was the surgery an experience, but also the long drive and the stay in St. Louis. Now, the Centers are centrally located and so very much easier on the patients.

Also, we would ask you to remember, the years of the "baby boomers" has begun. Along with age and the problems that come with it, one of the most devastating has to be the ability to see. This affliction is bad enough without not having anywhere to seek help and understanding except it be at a far distance. As money does not seem to go that far at this time, closer to home counts greatly. We just have to wonder how many Senior's will let eye problems go untreated if they have to travel farther distances. What a shame that would be.

We will close saying this: The Centers provide a valuable service for many in this area. Please think long and hard before taking this option away from us.

Thank you.

Nellie and George Shepard Jr.
206 East Eubanks Street
P.O. Box 43
Norris City, Illinois 62867

Nellie Shepard
George Shepard Jr.

1310 IL HWY 1
Carmi, IL 62821
March 22, 2011

Marion Eye Centers & Optical
PO BOX 1178
Marion, IL 62959-9938

To Marion Eye Centers & Optical:

This is in regard to the sale of the Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where your surgeons have performed surgery in the past. I don't feel that they should have to loose their center, and they are planning on expanding to meet the growing surgery needs of the community and surrounding area. I have had surgery done here 3 times because it was convenient and within the state of Illinois.

I'm almost 70 and I getting to the point that I don't like to travel very far for any type of medical help, especially eye surgery. Surely the non-physician non healthcare entity can find another place to go. They would have to remodel wherever they go, therefore, why have someone leave a facility that works for them and the community.

Before Marion Eye Center came to this area I was going out of state to Evansville, Indiana. We don't need to be sending our Illinois business out of state. Since the Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center) is already established here and is convenient we should try to keep it here.

I already know that I'll probably need additional surgery in the future; therefore, I prefer that my doctor stays in this area and continues doing what he is doing. He's convenient and in the state of Illinois.

Sincerely yours,

Alice Toombs

Alice Toombs
Concerned Patient

to whom it may Concern,

this is a letter to support the purchase for the eye surgery center. who ever is trying to keep this out of our area is not looking for the welfare of the community.

Lets try to help the econ and let people stay in our area.

Sincerely
Charles Beeler

March 26, 2011

Marion Surgery Center,

I would like to see the surgery center stay in Marion. Dr. Ahmad and Dr Umana have been my doctors for a long time. I trust my eyes with them. It would be inconvenient for me to go else where. Plus loss of jobs and revenue for the Community.

Hope this letter helps, keep the center where it is. In Marion.

NAME: Pauline Scott

ADDRESS: 11 Camela Place

Murphysboro, Il. 62966

PHONE NUMBER: 618-684-2246

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
1-800-344-7058

McLeansboro
1-618-643-2650

Metropolis
1-800-344-7058

Mt. Vernon
1-618-244-2777

Murphysboro
1-618-565-1405

Nashville
1-618-327-3900

Pinckneyville
1-618-357-2020

Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-6181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D
Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. • Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D.
Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

MARGARET JOHNSON

1703 EAST POPLAR STREET

WEST FRANKFORT, IL 62896

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

all of the above,

Thank you for your support.

Margaret M. Johnson
1703 E. Poplar St
West Frankfort, IL 62896

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
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Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

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1-573-683-2020

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1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Faisel Ahmad, M.D. • Omar Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • Micah Brasel, O.D. • Dolly Campbell, O.D William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Rachel Shewmake, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D. • Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

JUNIOR ABNEY
147 KAREN ANN LANE
CARRIER MILLS, IL 62917

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

Opal Abney
Junior Abney

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

I understand the surgery center in Marion is for sale and someone is trying to stop the Marion Eye Center from buying it. Its location is at a place where the people of Southern Illinois do not have to travel for a long way. I am 83 years old and would have a hard time getting anyone to drive me a long way for eye surgery and I'm sure there are a lot of other people who feel the same way.

Please think of the hardship it would be on a lot of people if the Surgery Center would have to move.

Betty Tucker
1306 Illinois Ave
Murphysboro, Il.
62966

I think it would be an inconvenie to move the surgecal Center out of town. It would be too far for a lot of older patients to travel. We also need the jobs in our Community.

NAME: Marjorie Parker

ADDRESS: 7746 Stonepost Rd

Crest Springs, Ill.

PHONE NUMBER: 618-996-2055

Re: Purchase of Marion Surgery Center

We support the Marion Eye Center in this situation.

We had to drive to Mt Vernon for cataract surgery early in the morning which is not reasonable considering the fact that Marion is growing and should be able to support their eye surgery center.

Will also have to go again very early for surgery on the other eye.

NAME: Carl & Margaret Patterson

ADDRESS: 11354 Little Branch Lane

Marion, IL 62959

PHONE NUMBER: 618-993-2537

March 16, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a patient at the Marion Eye Center for more than ten years. During that time I have received excellent care for my eyes including laser surgery.

When I was diagnosed with a detached retina, I had to travel to Belleville to have the surgery performed. It was very stressful and very inconvenient for me and for my family. You will never know the stress a person feels to know they have to travel for almost two hours knowing that even the slightest movement could cause the loss of my sight. I was out a lot of travel expense for the trip as well as motel fees and meals. I was, therefore, very excited to know that the Marion Eye Center was going to purchase the Marion Surgery Center and was hiring specialty retina surgeons. This would keep others from going through my same experience.

In order for a community to grow, all types of medical services are needed. This keeps patients using area facilities that can only help the area's economy. If the Marion Eye Center cannot do surgery in this area, what will people do for serious eye care and surgeries that involve more than just ordinary eye exams? The jobs that are at the Marion Eye Center will be lost, and the doctors, all of whom are specialists in eye care, will leave the area. Once again people from Southern Illinois will be forced to go to far away towns for medical eye surgeries and care.

I am opposed to giving another entity the certificate of need. What we **need** is to let the Marion Eye Center have the Marion Surgery Center.

Sincerely,

Donna Jones

Donna Jones

To whom it may concern:

We oppose anyone from buying the surgical center who would stop the Marion Eye center from using it for their patients. We are in favor of the Marion Eye center buying it if they so desire.

John Gouse
Margaret Gouse

March 14, 2011

Letter of Opposition

My mother and I have been patients at Marion Eye Center for years. Dr. Umana, who has been caring for my mother's needs for a few years now, is the doctor with whom my mother has been quite pleased. Being that she is stricken with Multiple Sclerosis, cannot drive, and has already been very limited in her ability to get around, it would only be that much more stressful and physically taxing for her, and inconvenient for me as her sole caretaker, if her doctor is relocated to a more distant area.

The "non-physician non-healthcare entity" has no moral conscience or compassion to do such a thing as to undermine the good intentions of well-trained, caring physicians for the ultimate good of the citizens in the surrounding counties. And those who sit on the Illinois Health Planning Board would have none of the same if they decide to deny the people of Jackson, Williamson, Union, Perry, Alexander, and various other counties what has proven to be easier access to quality optical/ophthalmologic service.

This entity should not be allowed to advance its interests that will be of no medical benefit to the citizens. In the Southern Illinois region, both good health care and public transportation for those who need it to get to the doctors with whom they have established relationships with are hard to come by as it is now. In this case, I doubt my mother and I are the only ones who would not trade good optical health for whatever this entity is so underhandedly planning to pop up its tent and sell.

If the Illinois Health Planning Board does grant the certificate of need to this entity, I will keep driving by, never patronizing the entity's business, no matter what it may be, and further will spread the word to others unaware of the unscrupulous business practices it has already demonstrated. Such greed and blatant disregard for the ill and needy is all we need to know about them.

Sincerely,

Loretta and Mavin Edwards

Date: March 18th, 2011

From: 'Niyi Bello
1962-7 Evergreen Terrace drive,
Carbondale, Il 62901

To: Illinois Health planning Board

To whom it may concern

My attention has been called to the on-going debate over the proposed sale of the ***Marion Surgery Center,*** and I write in support of Dr. Ahmad's letter of intent and application to purchase.

In the last two years, precisely December 16, 2009 and also in July 2010, I went through surgery for glaucoma. On each occasion, I got a neighbor's help at short notice to drive me in for the procedure at about 8.00 am and to return me home at 12 noon. This was possible in the absence of a state-run public transport system in the area because of the short distance we had to travel. Imagine if I have to seek for service outside the area! Life could become unbearable for clients like me should my surgeon relocate because he could no longer perform operations in the area. Please consider this.

A positive consideration of Dr. Ahmad's application will be considered professionally right and expedient. Dr. Ahmad and the team of Marion Eye Center and optical surgeons have been working and living in the Southern Illinois community for over 25 years, and in so doing, have become familiar with the people and their needs. They have consistently helped to sustain the welfare and the economy of the community. To the best of my knowledge, the philosophy of Dr. Ahmad and his team of surgeons remains customer satisfaction and quality service.

Health care delivery should not be a preserve of business opportunists. An investor must have the heart and concern for service. It should also not be a field for non-professional to dabble into without dire consequences to the people. The practitioners at the Marion Eye Center and Optical have invested heavily in this community and policy decisions that will endanger the existing relationship - such as selling the Eye Center to non-professionals or non health-care entity - should be avoided.

With kind regards.

Yours faithfully,

March 21, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

If the SCA. Southern Illinois Surgery Center is sold to outside interests, other than the Marion Eye Center Group it will be a terrible inconvenience to me. I trust the experience and integrity of the Marion Eye Center Group and do not want to travel great distance to have my eyes operated on. Also in this economy the loss of jobs in Marion will have a very negative effect in our community plus the loss of revenue.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely.

Lois Benson

261 S. County Line Rd.
Carbondale, IL 62902
March 19, 2011

Marion Eye Centers
PO Box 1178
Marion IL 62959-9938

It is with great disappointment we read that Marion Eye Center (MEC) could lose their surgery center. MEC provides a much needed service to so many in the Southern Illinois area. It seems that a medical provider who has provided quality care and service in a location should have priority to buy and continue in a facility that they have occupied, over someone who is just coming in.

So many people in this area depend upon MEC for eye surgery. It would be a great inconvenience to so many to lose this facility. It just makes sense that MEC own and operate this facility and continue in business here providing many jobs to people here.

Sincerely,

Gordon Butler
Gordon Butler

Joyce Butler
Joyce Butler

M Sue York
2140 Pine Street
Murphysboro, Illinois 622966

The State of Illinois
Health Planning Board

Dear Sir or Madam:

It has come to my attention, that someone in Marion, Illinois, is asking for a Certificate of Need Exemption for the Marion Surgery Center.

I have had surgery at that facility, on two occasions. My husband has had surgery there on two occasions. To think that someone who has not used that facility would ask you to let them purchase it, or even worse, keep Dr. Ahmad from purchasing it, boggles the mind.

Marion Eye center has been our Doctors of choice for years, ad I hope for us, and our family for years to come.

I understand it is in your power to put this matter to rest, and grant Dr. Ahmad the right to purchase this center. It that is so, it is my hope you will do that with due haste.

Sincerely,

M. Sue York

March 21, 2011

Mary Jane Hunziker
46 Shady Lane
Murphysboro, IL 62966

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the purchase of Marion Surgery Center by Dr. Ahmad. I have been bringing my mother, Mary Aufrecht, to Dr. Ahmad for treatment of macular degeneration for several years; he has saved her sight. We have utilized the Marion Surgery Center on several occasions and would hate to see the purchase of this facility by Dr. Ahmad blocked by a non-healthcare entity.

Please allow the purchase by Dr. Ahmad to move forward for the good of all patients who have treatment there. Not only would it be very inconvenient to have to travel out of the area to wherever these surgeons would be practicing, there could likely be loss of jobs locally.

Thank you for your consideration of patients who rely on Marion Surgery Center and the doctors there for their eye care.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Hunziker

Mary Jane Hunziker

Marion Eye Center
P. O. Box 1178
Marion, IL. 62959

3-19-11

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a patient of Dr. George Ortiz since 1994. I have never had to have surgery in the surgery center, but, that possibility always has and does exist.

I am of the opinion that if the group of Doctors that already work there want to buy the Surgery Center, that would be a better option for the people in this area, than having some Lawyer buy it that may or may not have the best interests of the patients at heart. Just guessing I would say probably not.

Thank you for the opportunity to state my opinion!

Naomi Carr
1479 Co. Rd. 1000 E
Carmi, IL. 62821

Naomi Carr

Naomi Carr

2575 West Striegel Road
Carbondale, IL 62901
March 18, 2011

Marion Eye Centers
P O Box 1178
Marion, Illinois 62959-9938

I received your letter concerning the possibility of losing your Marion Surgery Center location in Marion, I have been a patient of your services for a great number of years and it would be very inconvenient for me to have to travel a greater distance.

I feel it would impose a hardship on many people in this area to travel farther with the high cost of gasoline, especially the elderly on fixed incomes with eye problems. Loss of jobs in the community, with the high unemployment rate would be a blow to our area.

It is my hope that you may continue to serve the area in your present location.

Sincerely,

Emma Blair

March 20, 2011

To Whom it May Concern:

I certainly oppose the sale of Southern Illinois Surgery Center to anyone but Marion Eye Center. It is certainly an inconvenience to travel outside the area for quality eye care or surgery. Our area cannot afford to lose more jobs and revenue.

There are many elderly patients who require eye care and not all of us are able to afford the ungodly gas prices we are forced to pay, nor do all patients have families who can drive them. Some of us rely on Rides Transit.

Please do not force "another" hardship on us!

Mary Foster

Harrisburg, Illinois

March 18, 2011

Marion Eye Center
Marion
Illinois

Gentlemen:

My wife and I have found it necessary to travel to Mt. Vernon, IL and St. Louis, MO in order for her to have the services of Dr. Olk for her eight retinal surgeries in the past three years. She is confident of her retinal care by Dr. Olk. The travel to these outside areas has been frustrating. If Marion Eye Center is successful in purchasing Marion Surgical Center, these frustrations would be alleviated for retinal patients.

I oppose the requested certificate of need and purchase of Marion Surgical Center by the non-physician non-healthcare entity. The success of this purchase would hinder the healthcare of many patients.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my apprehensions regarding this issue.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Sirach
108 Apache Drive
Harrisburg, IL 62946

VIRGINIA SWANSON

[redacted]

March 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to assure you that my husband and I being seniors, greatly appreciate having a local facility like the Marion Eye Center. We prefer not to travel when we need care.

We enjoy the care we get from our Doctors George Ortiz, Robert Kippenbrock and William Fix. The Doctors are always pleasant and professional. Once we establish a relationship, we don't want to lose it to start over again with someone different. With the cost of gasoline, we certainly don't want to travel any further.

My 43 year old son also uses this facility. He has glaucoma, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis in his hands and feet, and a heart problem. Either his wife or I have to drive him to his appointments. It would be a great inconvenience if we had to drive any further. His wife and I are both insulin dependent diabetics. My daughter in law also has a pace maker. We need our facility as is. Life is complicated enough.

Sincerely,

Virginia Swanson

Virginia Swanson

Virginia & Carl Swanson
1715 Melmar Dr
Marion IL 62959-5920

To whom it may concern!

I am writing opposing the certificate of
moving the surgery center out of Marion.
I have been going to Dr Ahmad for many
years & have had surgery in Marion office
I also have family members that go to Dr Ahmad.
I have a 96 year old mother that sees
Dr. Ahmad & have had surgery here.
It would defenitely be an inconvenience to her
& everyone else.
There would be a loss of jobs in the
community & also loss of revenue.
Please keep Marion eye Center in Marion
Ill.

618-596-1009

thank you
Vera Mills
PO Box 253
Zeigler Ill 62999

This would be a inconvenient for most people since most of the people receiving these kind of treatments are senior citizens.
The problem of traveling farther and cost. Im sure a lot of these people are on fixed incomes — maybe living alone.

I have been seeing Dr Elk for a lot of years regarding my Macular degeneration. Do I want to drive to Mt. Vernon for treatment — NO.

Delores Meyer
1237 Wagner Rd.
Ava, Ill. 62907
618-426-3912

To Whom it may concern:

It has been brought to our attention that we might be losing our only eye surgery & emergency care facility in Marion, Illinois. We are very upset to hear this as this will have a detrimental effect on our area both health wise & economically!

It is a fact that hospital ER's are not equipped to handle any eye treatment that involves loss of vision, retinal detachment or even diagnosing a serious problem in the eye. My husband has had a stroke in his left eye which left him with loss of vision as well as loss of peripheral vision. He made a visit to the local hospital ER & was told he had not had a stroke...proving the need for the Marion Surgery Center.

I have been visiting the eye center for the past 6 months at various times for possible retinal tear or detachment. So far my examinations have proven negative but there may come a time when I would need emergency care & there would be none...without driving out of the area.

It is our hope that the matter will be considered to retain the surgery center in Marion. Besides the reasons already listed it would incur

Inconvenience to the patient
Patients having to travel outside the area
Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operate in because of his experience and integrity
Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
Unknown future of the surgery center
Loss of jobs in our community
Loss of revenue for the community

Please consider our concerns.

Mr & Mrs Horace Parker

Horace Parker, Jr.
16532 Route 37
Johnston City, IL 62951-2627

Naomi Endrizzi
406 W 5th St
Johnston City, IL 62951

To: Whom It May Concern;

It is my understanding that the Marion Eye Center has come up for sale. I sincerely hope that Dr. Ahmad will be the one who purchases said Surgery Center. The Ders. associated with this surgery center are the best of the best and it would be an inconvenience for me as well as hundreds of others to have to travel to see anyone of those Ders. if they move out of the Marion area. Please do not let this surgery center leave this area as it would be a loss not only our travel time but loss of Revenue, jobs and great Ders. We deserve this. 25 yrs. says alot about the Marion Eye Center.

Sincerely
Naomi Endrizzi

March 15

To Whom It May Concern:

I am asking you to please not allow the Health Planning Board to receive a certificate for taking over the services of our wonderful eye surgeons. We have some of the best in this community and we want to keep them.

It would not only be inconvenient, folks would have to travel a long distance; others would lose jobs and the lack of our already good services would be in jeopardy.

Please don't mess with something already so good. Thanks for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

William Jackson

William Jackson

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
1-800-344-7058

McLeansboro
1-618-643-2650

Metropolis
1-800-344-7058

Mt. Vernon
1-618-244-2777

Murphysboro
1-618-565-1405

Nashville
1-618-327-3900

Pinckneyville
1-618-357-2020

Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D
Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. • Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D.
Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

ROBERT TRAVELSTEAD

1115 EAGLE POINT BAY RD

GOREVILLE, IL 62939

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

The marion surgery center, should stay in marion, Inconvenience, the traveling would be of interest to a lot of older patients, thanks

Robert & Pamela Norris

404 South Walnut Street
Sesser, Illinois 62884
Phone (618) 625-3781
norris111@frontier.com

March 14, 2011

Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761-0001

Re: Marion Surgery Center

To whom it concerns;

As a patient of the Marion Eye Center, myself and family members have had occasion for the necessary surgery of our eyes. We have had this surgery at the Marion Surgery Center.

It is our understanding that Dr. Ahmad has signed a letter of intent to purchase this facility, so that eye surgeries may continue at this facility.

It is with great regret, that a non-physician, non-healthcare entity is trying to stop this purchase.

If your board would allow this to happen it would be an absolute tragedy to the Marion area. We beseech you to intervene with a proper decision to continue to allow proper eye care to continue from this facility and benefit the Marion area and surrounding communities.

Should you allow a non-healthcare entity to stop the purchase of this facility it would be a travesty for area residents who wish to continue to have access to quality eye care in this area.

We thank you for your consideration and hope that you will do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Robert & Pamela Norris

Pamela Norris

Harrisburg, Illinois

March 18, 2011

Marion Eye Center
Marion
Illinois

Gentlemen:

It has been necessary for me to have eight retinal surgeries in the past three years, and it was necessary for me to travel to Mt. Vernon, IL and St. Louis, MO for Dr. Olk to perform my surgeries. Dr. Olk is well known for his experience and integrity, and I have confidence in his care of my retinal problems. The travel to outside areas added to the frustrations of surgery. The purchase of Marion Surgery Center by Marion Eye Center would alleviate these frustrations for me and other current retinal patients, as well as for future patients.

I oppose the requested certificate of need and purchase of Marion Surgical Center by the non-physician non-healthcare entity. The success of this purchase would hinder the healthcare of many patients.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Gina Sirach
108 Apache Drive
Harrisburg, IL 62946

March 21, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to show my disapproval of the fact that an attorney is trying to stop the sale of the Southern Illinois Surgery Center to Marion Eye Centers. I have MS and to have to go a long distance for my eye care and any necessary surgery would be not only an inconvenience to me, but would be detrimental. With many physicians leaving Illinois because of high insurance costs, we need to keep the physicians in our area that wish to be here.

Sincerely,

Eugene Blumenstock

March 21, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to show my disapproval of the fact that an attorney is trying to stop the sale of the Southern Illinois Surgery Center to Marion Eye Centers. I do not like driving in metropolitan areas and this might cause me to have to have someone take off extra time from work to drive me to a facility that is further away. Also, my husband has MS and to have to go a long distance for my eye care and any necessary surgery would be extremely inconvenient for us. With many physicians leaving Illinois because of high insurance costs, we need to keep the physicians in our area that wish to be here.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Blumenstock

March 17, 2011

Illinois Health Facilities Board

RE: Marion Surgery Center

Gentlemen:

It has come to my attention that Marion Surgery Center is for sale and that the attempt of Dr. Ahmad, Marion Eye Center, to purchase the facility has been thwarted by the attempt of another group to purchase the Marion Surgery Center.

If Dr. Ahmad is unable to purchase the center it would cause a great disadvantage for me. I have been a patient of Marion Eye Center for several years and have had surgery at the Center numerous times.

I am 96 years of age and unable to see very well. If I am forced to go out of the area for any needed surgeries it would a severe handicap for me.

Since I am also very hard of hearing, should you have any questions please call my Nephew who take care of me. His name and phone number are: W. Eugene Cowsert, (618)932-6388.

Sincerely,

L Dale Lamb

L. Dale Lamb
1007 E. Poplar St.
West Frankfort, IL 62896

March 17, 2011

Illinois Health Facilities Board

RE: Marion Surgery Center

Gentlemen:

It has come to my attention that Marion Surgery Center is for sale and that the attempt of Dr. Ahmad, Marion Eye Center, to purchase the facility has been thwarted by the attempt of another group to purchase the Marion Surgery Center.

If Dr. Ahmad is unable to purchase the center it would cause a great disadvantage for me. I have been a patient of Marion Eye Center for several years and have had surgery at the Center numerous times.

I will be 88 years of age on May 11th years and have Rheumatoid arthritis as well as limited sight. If I am forced to go out of the area for any needed surgeries it would a severe handicap for me.

Should you have any questions please call my Nephew who takes care of me. His name and phone number are: W. Eugene Cowsert, (618)932-6388. However, if you must talk with me I will try to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Margaret Lamb

Margared R. Lamb
1007 E. Poplar St.
West Frankfort, IL 62896
(618)9376164

March 13, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I have recently been informed that a non-physician, non-healthcare entity is applying for a certificate of need to purchase Marion Eye Center. If the certificate were to be granted it would put a hardship on people not only from Marion but West Frankfort, Zeigler and other communities in the area. Not everyone is financially able to travel outside of Southern Illinois and especially out of state.

There are enough people out of work already and the price of fuel is getting astronomical and is putting a burden of decision making on the patient whether to travel to have work done on their eyes in order to see or to stay home. Is there not enough graft going on now without the need as to add some more.

Have a little compassion on the constituents that voted you into the position you now hold. There have been other political leaders that have fallen and were removed or done away with because of greed.

Dr. Ahmad has signed a letter of intent to purchases the Marion Eye Center and is already established in the area. He and his staff have been taking excellent care of people of all ages for a very long time.

Please do not grant the certificate to someone who is going to put people out of work and possibly require a trusted and established business to leave the area.

Signed, Robert Hussmann

A patient and voter ROBERT HUSSMANN

Mar. 24, 2011
Orient, Ill.

Dear Illinois Health Planning Board,

Marion Eye Center should be able to purchase the Southern Ill. Surgery Center and not have their purchase undermined.

I am Eighty Three years of age and have had Cataract implant surgery and glaucoma drainage systems put in both eyes. Doctor Ortiz has saved my sight in both eyes. My right eye was 94% damaged.

Please do not make me travel outside the Marion area, because this would cause me a severe inconvenience and a hardship.

Also, please let the Marion Eye Center purchase this surgery Center (SCA) for the good of the people in Southern, Ill. and surrounding areas.

Very truly yours,
Alfred Dortch

Dongola, Illinois
March 24, 2011

To: Illinois Health Planning Board

I am writing to you in regard to the possible sale of the Marion Surgical Center. I understand that a non-physician non-healthcare group has applied for a Certificate of Need. In view of the fact that Dr. Ahmad signed a letter of intent to purchase, I believe that the Certificate of Need be denied. It is my opinion that a surgury center under the control and supervision of competent and skilled surgeons and staff who hold patient care above profit would better serve the area.

I have had 4 eye surgeries at the facility under the care o of the doctors and staff at Marion Eye Center. If it had been necessary for me to have those procedur es done out of the area, it would have been more costly and very inconvenient making overnight travel necessary.

Please also give consideration to the economy of the area. I think it would be wiser to encourage physicians to move into the area where they can practice their particular specialty than for them to need to practice out of the area.

Sincerely,
Alma Dodd West

Alma Dodd West
P.O. Box 7
Dongola, IL 62926
Phone: 618-827-4341

Marion, Illinois

March 25, 2011

To whom it may concern:

Re: The Southern Illinois Surgery Center

The Southern Illinois Surgery Center is a definite asset to the City of Marion.

The excellent surgeons affiliated with the Marion Eye Center deserve a convenient location to continue to perform the special eye care they now provide.

The addition of retina specialists will enhance and make SCA even more attractive and will probably create more jobs instead of losing jobs as the closing would do.

Their patients deserve the convenience of not having to travel, no telling how far, to receive this service.

To lose this excellent and greatly needed facility to some other entity would be a disgrace to the City of Marion.

It seems to me that this other business could find some other location to fulfill their "needs." Why the Surgery Center?

Bessie Corder

Mrs. Bessie Corder

420 South Calumet Street

Marion, Illinois

March 24, 2011

Dear Sir:

I wish to say that I am opposed to anyone but the doctors of the Marion Eye Center are able to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. If my family had to go elsewhere to have any type of surgery done it would present a hardship as we have only one driver to take us to another location. It would be inconvenient for us to have to travel any further than we do already. Our area needs this surgery center near for all the patients who live in this area. We have already lost many jobs with companies moving and this would add to the unemployment rate. There are five members of our family who depend on the doctors of this eye center for care. Please allow them to make this purchase and keep the good doctors we have here.

Sincerely,

Linda Mathis

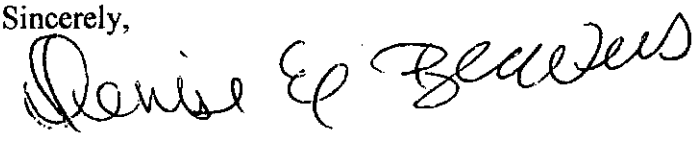
811 S. 4 St
Herrin, IL. 62948

Denise Beavers
378 Springdale Rd
Murphysboro, Il 62966
March 24, 2011

To whom it may concern:

I am a patient of Marion Eye Center. I had cataract surgery when I was thirty three years old at the surgery center that is in question. I had detached retina surgery last year at age forty one; this was also performed at the surgery center. It was very comforting to be able to have the surgery in Marion and have the follow up in the same town. I would be a hardship to have to travel for surgeries like retinal detachment. When mine occurred it was important to my vision that I had the surgery as soon as possible and to have to travel to get that surgery would be scary if anything else. I am writing to say that I feel that Marion Eye Center should be able to purchase the surgery center to provide peace of mind to people with eye surgery needs.

Sincerely,



Denise Beavers

March 24, 2011

Gentlemen:

I would like Dr. Ahmad to purchase the Marion Surgical Center and keep the doctors who do surgery there in our area. For many people in this area, as well as myself, it would be extremely inconvenient to have to travel the extra hour or two to get to the nearest surgery center. With the price of gas it would also add extra expense. If we had to get a hotel room or rooms it would also add to the expense many cannot afford. Our area needs the Marion Surgery Center to remain in this area so our community doesn't lose jobs and revenue. Please allow Dr. Ahmad to purchase this property.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Mathis

1201 E Clark Trail
Herrin, IL 62948

March 24, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to serve as support for allowing the Marion Eye Centers and Optical corporation to purchase the Southern Illinois Surgery Center. It is better for the community if Marion Eye Centers owns this facility since it is more convenient for the patients and brings jobs to local citizens. Also, the retina services being added if Marion Eye Centers purchased the surgery center would greatly benefit the health of the community. Patients could have their procedures done locally without the influence of a non-healthcare entity.

Sincerely,

Ismat Cheema

1201 E Clark Trail
Herrin, IL 62948

March 24, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to serve as support for allowing the Marion Eye Centers and Optical corporation to purchase the Southern Illinois Surgery Center. It is better for the community if Marion Eye Centers owns this facility since it is more convenient for the patients and brings jobs to local citizens. Also, the retina services being added if Marion Eye Centers purchased the surgery center would greatly benefit the health of the community. Patients could have their procedures done locally without the influence of a non-healthcare entity.

Sincerely,

Khalid Javed

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to the proposed sale of the surgery center in Marion\ and the application of the Certificate of Need Exemption filed by an attorney.

I feel the surgery center is needed in Southern Illinois for a number of reasons.

It would be an inconvenience for patience to travel a distance from the area, as some have no transportation available and/or unable to drive some distance.

The added expense is a main concern as older patience live on a budget. I recently had cataract surgery and had to drive to Mt. Vernon, Il. (2 trips). At the price of gas it would be impossible for some.

The lack of available retina services is another concern. It is a service that is needed on a daily basis.

Decision making on the quality and type of care should be determined by a health care professional. Not a lawyer and someone who is not qualified or cares.

Is the decision or proposed application based on need or experience or on money?

Thank You,

Connie Arnold

Connie Arnold

Jeffrey J. Barnes
2636 Graeff Rd.
Elkville IL 62932

March 24, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the application for a certificate of need to the Illinois Health Planning Board by a non-physician, non-healthcare entity for the purchase of the Marion Eye Center. As a local resident and satisfied patient of the Marion Eye Center, the potential impact of this purchase troubles me.

First, due to my history with my physician and the quality care I have received, I do not wish to switch doctors. This means I will have to travel further for my care, which is an inconvenience to me. Next, I can't think of anyone better to own and operate the facility than one of the very doctors who has made it a success. I am concerned that an entity with no healthcare experience may cause the facility to fail which would result in a loss of jobs and revenue for the community. As a lifetime resident of this area, I have seen the effects of business closures in the past. During this time of economic depression we need to fight to keep thriving businesses alive by making business decisions that are in the best interest of the organization and the community.

I oppose the issuance of this certificate and support Dr. Ahmad's letter of intent to purchase the Marion Eye Center.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Barnes

March 23, 2011

To Whom It May Concern

My mother has been under the care of Dr. Olk through the Marion Eye Center for a number of years. During that time, she has had many surgical procedures with Dr. Ahmad and Dr. Olk. Without their care and the convenience of their care at the Marion Surgery Center, she would most likely be blind at this point.

I will be forced to travel outside the area which will be a major inconvenience to me and my mother. I am opposed to granting the certificate requested and would certainly like to see the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center continue to do surgery at the Marion Surgery Center.

Respectfully,

Janette Peterman

Janette Peterman
3 Halliday Drive
Carbondale, IL 62903

3-23-11

To: The Illinois Planning Board
Re: Marion Eye Surgical Center

This Letter is to inform you that we are opposed to the sale of Marion Eye Surgical Center To an outside entity. We the people of Southern Illinois have depended and trusted the Surgeons and the staff of the Marion Eye center for years. They have provided excellent eye care to this area and they have been a major contributor to the Southern Illinois economy through the many jobs that they have provided to the residents of Southern Illinois. We have come to know and to trust our Marion Eye Center professionals and we do not appreciate the fact that you would ever consider allowing someone else to take that from the good people of Southern Illinois. With that said, I want you to know that I oppose you allowing the Certificate of Exemption to be issued to a greedy self serving attorney who does not have the health care need of the good people of southern Illinois at heart.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Eric & Rhonda Briscoe

Eric & Rhonda Briscoe
701 Binkley Street
Marion, Illinois, 62959

Glenda S. Miller

P.O. Box I

Jonesboro, IL 62952

March 15, 2011

To whom it may concern:

I have been a patient of the Marion Eye Center for along time now, and have come to appreciate the Marion Surgery Center as well. It has come to my attention that the Surgery Center has become for sale, and there are two parties interested in its purchase. I would hate to see the Surgery Center ran by a non-physician non-healthcare entity, which in my opinion makes no sense at all. Would you want your child's healthcare being navigated by a bricklayer? I most definitely would NOT!

Coming from a person with mental disabilities I can appreciate good quality healthcare from qualified healthcare providers. The doctors that operate thru and under MEC are very familiar with my condition and always go the extra mile to accommodate me at all my appointments at every level of care I've needed through MEC.

Being from Southern Illinois you must realize the importance of quality eye care that is provided by Marion Surgery Center. You must also understand the inconvenience it would be if I had to travel elsewhere to get the eye care needed. It would be a must because of the trust and bond that has been formed thru the years of doctor patient interactions. What would happen if this non-healthcare entity would gain this center: there would be no guarantee it would even remain open which would jeopardize lots of jobs (much needed jobs) for a lot of Southern Illinoisans'. Not to mention income and revenue provided by those jobs.

In closing I want it stated that I firmly oppose the Illinois Health Planning Board approving a certificate of need to the non-physician non-healthcare entity.

Glenda S. Miller

Southern Illinois

March 25, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the situation concerning the Marion Surgery Center. I feel that it is only right and most logical that the doctors that have worked so hard over the last 15 years to make the surgery center the success that it is today have the rightful opportunity to purchase and maintain this vital part of healthcare in Marion.

If the Marion Surgery Center is allowed to be controlled by another party, who is not a member of the healthcare profession, the consequences will very likely be devastating to the community. Patients will find themselves inconvenienced and quite possibly in dangerous, irreversible medical circumstances by having to travel out of the area in order to receive vitally important retina services. The community will find itself losing revenue by forcing its members to leave the area to go where their trusted doctor is allowed to perform the necessary surgical procedure. Community members that are employed at the Marion Surgery Center will very likely find themselves out of a job and therefore, unable to monetarily contribute to Marion businesses and services or forced to move out of the area altogether in order to find employment.

Allowing the trusted partners of Marion Eye Centers and Optical to purchase and control the Marion Surgery Center is the safest and most beneficial to the city of Marion and the people that need these services.

Thank you for your time and consideration concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Clark

Wilma Leek
2608 Graeff Rd.
Elkville IL 62932

March 24, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I was very disappointed to hear that an organization is trying to undermine Dr. Ahmad's purchase of the Marion Eye Center. I feel that a doctor's office is best owned and operated by doctors because they know what their patients need and want. I'm concerned that if this non-physician, non-healthcare entity is allowed to purchase the center, the business may fail. First, loyal patients will follow their doctor wherever they go. In addition to loyalty there are patients like myself, who have either been a patient for many years or who are older, who don't want to get to know a new doctor. Aside from patients leaving the Marion Eye Center the new owners may find it difficult to get new patients because people in this area are opposed to outsiders coming in and taking jobs from the community.

I'm in my eighties and it is becoming increasingly difficult for me to travel. Having to go outside of the area for my vision care will be very inconvenient for me. I hope that the Illinois Health Planning Board can see that letting Dr. Ahmad purchase the center is in the best interest of the patients, the physicians, and the community.

Sincerely,

Wilma Leek

Wilma Leek

March 20, 2011

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter in the hopes that the doctors of the Marion Eye Center will be allowed to buy the surgery center located in Marion. This will allow them to retain and expand the surgery and retina services offered to their clients in this area.

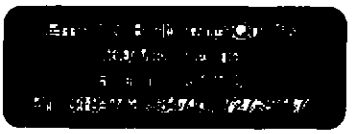
I have had cataract surgery on my right eye already and will eventually need the surgery on my left eye. I am 61 years old and have never been married and have no children. I had to rely on a friend to take me to surgery last time and wait and bring me home. That would be a much bigger problem if the surgery had to be performed at some other more remote location.

Please consider the needs of the people in this area when you are deciding who should be able to purchase the surgery facility in Marion.

Thank You,

Colleen A. Alvey

Colleen A. Alvey
Harrisburg IL
618-273-3238



To Whom It may Concern:

Re: Purchase of Surgery Center

Our family has used the Southern Illinois Surgery Center many times. We are so blessed to have their services in our area so we don't — or won't — have to travel. The Senior Citizens need this.

The Attorney who wants to undermine this purchase has been known as unfriendly to the community.

Let's hope that the Illinois Health Planning Board will realize that it would not only be an inconvience, but produce a lack of jobs and revenue for the community.

Sincerely,

Ernest + Barbara LaRuette

Please do not approve the purchase and certificate to a non-physician non-healthcare entity for the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center.

So many patients who need eye surgery are senior citizens and are unable to travel very far - some may not even be able to. I'm sure it would be difficult for everyone to have to go further to their doctors.

There would be loss of jobs and revenue in this community & we certainly don't need that to happen in this area.

Please <u>do not</u> let this pass.

Thank you

NAME: Audrey Sauer

ADDRESS: 1796 Orchard Hill Rd.
Murphysboro, Il. 62966

PHONE NUMBER: 618-687-1318

198 Southmoor
Carbondale, IL 62903
March 23, 2011

Marion Eye Center
PO Box 1178
Marion, Illinois 62959

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife, Sue, and I are patients at the Marion Eye Center facility in Carbondale, Illinois. We were disappointed to learn several days ago that there is a good chance we may be required to travel outside the area in the event of a future need for eye surgery. Such would be the case if the Illinois Planning Board decides in favor of the Marion attorney who has applied for a Certificate of Need Exemption.

My wife and I are senior citizens. The prospect of traveling outside the area for surgical services is not something we need. Neither do non seniors. Rising gasoline prices and inconvenience are only two of several reasons for keeping the availability of surgical services close to home.

We implore the Planning Board to decide in favor of the surgeons and the citizens of the southern Illinois area. Give the surgeons the chance to continue to offer their services in an uninterrupted style. Please deny the application for a Certificate of Need Exemption.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Warren N. Buescher

Warren N. Buescher

3-23-11

To: The Illinois Planning Board
Re: Marion Eye Surgical Center

This Letter is to inform you that I am opposed to the sale of Marion Eye Surgical Center To an outside entity. I have depended and trusted the Surgeons and the staff of the Marion Eye center for years. They have provided excellent eye care to this area and they have been a major contributor to the Southern Illinois economy through the many jobs that they have provided to the residents of Southern Illinois. I have come to know and to trust our Marion Eye Center professionals and we do not appreciate the fact that you would ever consider allowing someone else to take that from the good people of Southern Illinois. With that said, I want you to know that I oppose you allowing the Certificate of Exemption to be issued to a greedy self serving attorney who does not have the health care need of the good people of southern Illinois at heart.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Elfreda L. Briscoe

Mrs. Elfreda L. Briscoe
606 E. 7th Street
Johnston City, Illinois, 62951

March 22, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter to show our support for Dr. Ahmad, Ortiz, and Umana and Olk in their endeavor to purchase the Marion Surgery Center.

We have had the need for their services in the past, and must continue for an undetermined amount of time for check ups.

We are elderly and do not have the ability to travel very far. If we had to go any further than Marion, Illinois for our eye care services, we would have to do without that care.

The surgery center is a very important part of the total care and use of the existing surgery center is more than convenient for that purpose.

We sincerely hope and pray that The Marion Eye Centers physician group is able to purchase the Southern Illinois Surgery Center and continue to use it as is needed.

Sincerely, Bill Adams
Mary R. de Adams

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Adams
5607 Rosebud Rd
Metropolis, IL 62960

March 22, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter to firmly oppose the certificate of need that is being imposed upon Marion Eye Centers & Opticals for its intent to purchase the Marion Surgery Center that is up for sale. In 2004, I underwent retina surgery in this center and the fact that this facility is in the area made a huge difference to me from a patient convenience point of view.

Apart from personal need, I oppose the certificate because it would lead to lack of retina services in the southern Illinois area on a daily basis, and result in loss of jobs and revenue for the community. Finally, I question the validity of a non-health care entity having such a big say in the future of the surgery center.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Nilanjana Bardhan
903 S. Skyline Dr.
Carbondale, IL 62901

Thelma Weaver
3030 State St. Apt 405
Chester, Il. 62233
March 18. 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been informed that the Marion Surgery Center is at risk of being purchased by a non-physician non-healthcare entity. I would like to register my opposition to this.

If the Center is sold to a non-medical entity, there is no certainty that it would remain an eye surgery center, or that the current physicians would be able to provide services there.

I have been a patient of the Marion Eye Center and Drs Ahmad and Olk for many years, and have continuing vision care needs. I am well established with these physicians, and do not want to change physicians or travel farther out of the area for care. That would not only be inconvenient, it would create a hardship for me, as I have to rely on others for transportation. In light of continually rising gas prices, it also creates an economic hardship to drive long distances for care.

Retina care is desperately needed in this area. My sister-in-law recently had a detached retina, and had to go to Mount Vernon for treatment. Marion would have been as least 25 miles closer. Readily accessible care is needed.

The loss of the Center would be detrimental to the community because of the inevitable loss of jobs and revenue. In this economy, with persistent high unemployment rates, every job is important!

I support the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center by Dr. Ahmad, as he has the experience and expertise to assure continuing excellent eye care in this area.

Thank you,

Thelma R Weaver

Thelma Weaver

March 21 2011

Marin Eye Centers

Sir's: I hope you will be able to stay in marin to perform these surgery's. I had to go to another Town for my surgery which was an Inconvenience To me since marin was closer then where I had to go. I am sure other people feel the same way having to go out of town for there surgery. So Please Consider keeping the marin surgery Team here because it would be a loss to the Community To lose this important service.

Thank you
Patricia Overtuf

21 March 2011

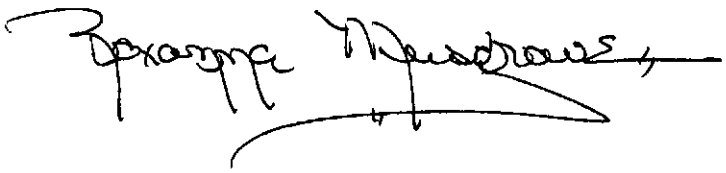
To Whom It May Concern,

The Marion Surgical Center is a vital and important part of the Marion Eye Center and all of Southern Illinois, Western Kentucky, and Southern Indiana. It is a place where eye surgery can be done without having to travel out of the area.

It is important not only for the patients (a lot of senior citizens) that go to the Marion Eye Center but also the community. It brings not only experienced doctors to the area but it also brings jobs and revenue to the community.

A facility of this kind is vitally needed, wanted, and appreciated in this area. Please do not let anything happen to where this facility would no longer be in operation for the patients and the community.

Sincerely,



Nellie Keene
401 N. Beaucoup Street
Pinckneyville, IL 62274

We need the Marion Surgery Center to continue being located in Marion. This is very beneficial for those of us who require eye surgery through the Marion Eye Center. As a patient the doctor's experience and integrity is of upmost importance to each of us. Most of us are not able to drive long distance(s). Therefore, we require our care givers to bring us. This can be a major inconvenience for them if they have to travel out of the area. We need the retina services in this area tremendously. We do not wish to have a non healthcare entity as owner and decision maker of our eye care. Our eye care is **VERY IMPORTANT** to us in every way.

We also need the jobs and revenue in this community to stay in this community. We have many people here who really need the jobs and we need the eye care. We do not want the future of our eye center to be unknown. We want to have people in this area who really care about us and our community.

Sincerely,

Nellie Keene

Nellie Keene
Eye Patient

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
1-800-344-7058

McLeansboro
1-618-643-2650

Metropolis
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Mt. Vernon
1-618-244-2777

Murphysboro
1-618-565-1405

Nashville
1-618-327-3900

Pinckneyville
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Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D
Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. • Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D.
Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

MARY LOU LANG

840 KIMMEL CEMETARY RD

ANNA, IL 62906

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

Dam against the Dr's moving
My Vote is for them to stay
in Marion & treat the People
You all are doing a great Job
& vote for them to stay at Marion

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

ETHEL HARRISON

1197 ST. HWY 145 NORTH

STONEFORT, IL 62987

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

agree to all this points
Ethel Harrison

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

MARCH 18, 2011

THE QUESTION OF WHY THE MARION EYE CENTER IN MARION IS NEEDED, IS EASILY ANSWERED.

I HAD CATARACT EYE SURGERY ON MARCH 3 ON ONE EYE AND ON MARCH 17 ON THE OTHER EYE. BECAUSE OF THE TYPE OF SURGERY, YOU MUST BRING A SECOND PERSON TO DRIVE HOME. ONE ROUND TRIP TAKES A LITTLE LESS THEN ONE HUNDRED MILES, TWO HOURS DRIVING ON THE ROUND TRIP. THE COST OF GAS FOR THE TRIP HAS GONE UP. BEING RETIRED AND ON A FIXED INCOME MAKES THE TRIP COST EVEN HIGHER

THE DOCTORS IN THE CENTER ARE EXCELLENT ON THE JOBS THEY DO. TO HAVE THEM IN AN AREA CLOSER TO MY HOME WOULD BE A GREAT SAVINGS ON TIME MONEY,

I FEEL THAT THE DOCTORS ARE THE BEST TO OFFER ME IN THIS AREA

JOBS TO THE AREA ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THEY WOULD CREATE AT LEAST 30 SUCH JOBS

LOSS OF REVENUE FROM PAYMENT OF TAXES, AND THE SPENDING IN THE AREA BY PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE AREA I FEEL WOULD BE HIGH

Joyce D. Merz

JOYCE D. MERZ
5610 ARCTIC FOX DR
CARTERVILLE, IL., 62918
618-942-8182

Joyce Merz
PO Box 527
Carterville, IL 62918-0527

3/15/11

To Whom It May Concern:

We are asking Illinois Health Planning Board to allow Dr. Ahmad to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. This facility needs to stay in our local area.

Sincerely

Frank McDaniel

Frank McDaniel
335 Hankins Rd
Harrisburg, IL 62946

Mar. 15, 2011

Gentlemen:

- It has been brought to my attention of the intent of Dr. Ahmad, Marion Eye Center, to buy the building wherein they have been for many years.
- I feel this to be a very good move for, not only myself, but the whole Community. We need good Doctors like Dr. Ortiz, Dr Ahmad, Dr. Umana in this Community.
- I like to be Called by my Name, Not just think of me as a Number, as it has become in so many cases.
- I have been a Patient of Dr. Ortiz since 1980. I am a Cripple and have a need for my Doctors to be close to get to. It goes without saying, I have a great respect for His Knowledge of my eye Conditions.

Like the old Proverb!!
If it's not broke, don't fix it!!

Yours Truly

Lorene DaVault

LORENE DAVAULT
165 RON MORSE DR.
APT. #27
HARRISBURG, IL. 62946

To whom it may concern

I am writing in concerns of not losing my Dr.s office from out of this area. I have had 4 back surgery's 2 M I's & now have the 1st stage of glaucoma in which Dr. Ahmad did my laser surgery (which he did a wonderful job I might add)

1. It hurts my back to drive a great distance out of this area
2. Where Dr. Ahmad's office is, is a Real convince to me (only 5 miles from my home) easy to get to & from, from my home.
3. This would mean loss of jobs in our area where that is a huge concern of mine since we have a low job rate anyway loss of more jobs would really hurt this area.

I personally would hate to lose my Dr. in this area cause like I said it would hurt my back to drive to a different area.

If you have questions please feel free to contact me. My phone number is

618 364 6783

I reside at

1408 Jefferson Ave.

Johnston City

Illinois 62951

Thank you for your time & consideration on keeping Dr. Ahmad in Marion, Illinois

James w Jackson

Mr. James Jackson
1408 Jefferson Ave.
Johnston City, IL 62951-1556

Marion Eye Center
P. O .Box 1178
Marion, Il. 62959

I am writing in opposition to news that a non-physician non-healthcare entity has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need.

My reasons are:

Inconvenience to the patient

Patients having to travel for surgery to a facility where the doctor operates, because of his reputation

Decision making by a non-healthcare entity

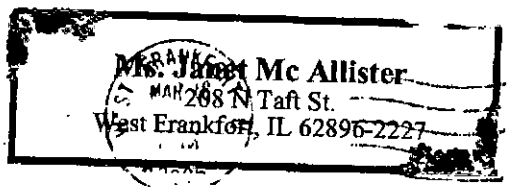
Growing elderly population in need of eye services

Loss of jobs in our community

Janet McAllister

Janet McAllister
208 N. Taft St.
West Frankfort, IL 62896

March 17 2011



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing in regards concerning the sale of the Marion Surgery Center in Marion, Il. Dr. Ahmad , Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and many other Doctors have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for many years.

My husband and myself have been going to Marion for surgery for a long time. We are both eighty plus and it would be very difficult for us to travel any further distance than Marion.

We ask that your consider Dr. Ahmad's letter of intent to purchase the building so our surgeons may continue the good work they are now doing.

Respectfully yours,

Ed + Mary Turner

March 18,2011

Ed & Mary Turner
242 E New Thompson Lk Rd
Carbondale, IL 62901-5344

Marion Eye Centers
PO Box 1178
Marion, IL 62959

March 19, 2011

Greetings,

I have learned that the Marion Surgery Center is for sale and that the Physicians' that I have known and trusted for many years are attempting to purchase the facility. I have also learned that an outside non-physician entity is making an effort to obtain ownership.

I am very much opposed to any transfer of ownership that would disrupt my ability to travel the short distance from West Frankfort to Marion to see the Doctor that has performed my eye surgery on two separate occasions. I also do not care for the idea of having the availability of services determined by the desires of non-physician profit driven investors.

I appreciate the Marion Surgery Center because of the services they provide, by the local jobs they provide, and be their efforts to keep revenue in the local area. I truly hope that Dr. Ahmad and his associates become the new owners.

Sincerely,

Naomi Stilley

Naomi Stilley
205 West 7th Street
West Frankfort, IL 62896

Naomi Stilley
205 W. 7th St.
West Frankfort
Illinois 62896

March 20, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that we could lose the services of the ophthalmologists at the Marion Eye Center unless Dr. Ahmad is approved to purchase the Marion Surgery Center.

Perish the thought! If Dr. Ahmad had to relocate away from Marion, where would we have to go? Travel can be a big problem for an eye patient, especially a single person, because it involves a second person for driving. Some procedures require hours at the facility due to testing, dilation, etc., and necessary waiting periods in between. Proximity to the place of surgery is an important factor because the longer the trip the less convenient for the patient, and the harder to find a driver.

We have been very fortunate to have access to high-quality eye care. Some of the doctors travel considerable distances from city locations to take care of patients in Southern Illinois. We cannot afford to lose their expert services. Anyone who has visited the Marion Eye Center waiting rooms knows that these services are needed, and that the patients need them HERE, close to home, So let Dr. Ahmad have the Marion Surgery Center and let us patients keep the services of our specialists HERE.

For many years, I have been a patient at the Marion Eye Center, in Marion as well as in Carbondale, for routine vision care, cataract surgery and, more recently, as Dr. Olk's patient for treatment of macula degeneration. I want medical personnel to continue making medical decisions for me, not a bureaucratic entity that is poised to buy the Marion Surgery Center.

But there are other than personal concerns at stake as well. Dr. Ahmad employs a considerable number of local people. Should he be denied the chance to purchase the property in question and move elsewhere, the loss of jobs would have a negative impact on the area, and in particular the economy of Marion would suffer the consequences.

Don't commit such a disservice to Southern Illinois!

Respectfully yours,

Regina M. Shelton

Regina M. Shelton

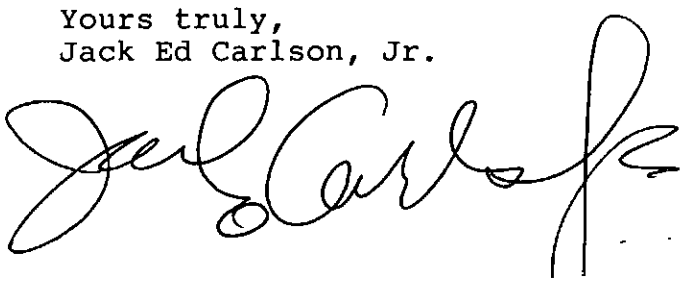
Regina M. Shelton
2950 Westridge Pl Apt 113
Carbondale, IL 62901-1088

March 17, 2011

Marion City Council:

On behalf of Marion Eye Centers & Optical I submit my letter of support for their intent to purchase the Marion Surgery Center for the benefit of their present and future patients.

Yours truly,
Jack Ed Carlson, Jr.



Linda & Ed Carlson
1002 E. Main Street
West Frankfort, IL 62896-1481

MEMORANDUM

To: Illinois Health Planning Board
From: Janet Bean
Date: March 25, 2011
Subject: Marion Surgery Center

Over the past years, I have had several surgeries performed by Dr. Umana at the Marion Surgery Center. These surgeries, done in southern Illinois were very convenient for my family and myself.

I hope you will not give a certificate of need exemption to someone who will not be concerned in the best interests of Marion Eye Centers & Optical and their patients. I do prefer to see doctors and have procedures done in the local area.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Janet Bean

Janet Bean
1279 Kathleen Rd.
Du Quoin, IL 62832

Marion Eye Center
P.O. Box 1178
Marion, Il. 62959-9938

March 22, 2011

Dear Dr. Ahmad and Staff:

It has come to my attention that the Marion Eye Center surgical facility is up for sale, and that a certain individual or individuals are trying to undermine and prevent the purchase of this property by the Marion Eye Center. I cannot imagine the mindset behind this kind of action; particularly, when you consider the thousands of needy patients who had their eyesight saved and/or restored at this facility by top flight eye surgeons from Marion Eye Center. I am one of those patients. Today, I thank God for my eye surgeon, Dr. Olk, and for the fact that I did not have to drive multiplied miles to receive such outstanding eye surgery.

The Marion Eye Center Surgery Center needs to be right where it is, and I object to the attempts by anyone to prevent Marion Eye Center from purchasing this property.

Respectfully,

Ted Pavloff

Ted Pavloff
312 South 12th Street
Herrin,Il. 62948

Donald Hickam
222 Natural Bridge Rd.
Pomona, IL 62975-2114

March 17, 2011

Marion Eye Centers
Marion, Il. 62959

I want to say that I do oppose the purchase to move our Eye centers Surgeons out of our area. Especially we seniors want to continue the service we have come to depend on, we are well pleased with Drs. there and it would do us a great disservice were this to happen.

Thank you
Mary Lee Pemberton

Mrs Mary L Pemberton
495 Francis Rd
Eldorado IL 62930

Attention: 3-19-11

We have been going to this facility for many years. The convenience is substantial. We are unable to drive in heavily related traffic.

Dr. Ahmad is very experienced & has helped many patients. With my condition I don't want to start with any one new. This would make it very hard on me. This is great concern for me and my wife.

The area needs this. Smaller communities gets revenue taken away. We want to keep this facility & help Small communities grow.

Alvin Robert
6053 Collins Rd.
Ellis Grove, Il. 62241

Concerned patients,
Alvin and Darlene Robert
6053 Collins Rd.
Ellis Grove, Il. 62241

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
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Staff

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

VIRGINIA SMOTHERS

14174 HWY 34

BENTON, IL 62812

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient ✓
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity ✓
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs. Virginia Smothers
14174 State Highway 34
Benton, IL 62812-6041

All good reason to stay where the Eye Center

March 21, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This letter is to state how important it is that the Southern Illinois Surgery Center (SCA) stays in its present location. The availability of the many talented doctors who care for our eye problems is of paramount importance to many persons in this area.

I am an especially concerned patient because of a retina problem, and would be disappointed if I did not have the opportunity for surgery by my current doctor at your center. Also, my brother has had surgery in recent weeks at your center and could not have traveled long distances for such a surgery. It would be an extreme inconvenience and perhaps impossible for many elderly persons to travel out of the area for such treatment.

I trust that strong consideration be made to allow the SCA to remain in its current location. It will be an extreme benefit for many people.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Biggs

Donna M. Biggs
Current and Continuing Patient

The Biggs
325 Jolee Way
Paducah, KY 42001

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
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DuQuoin
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Harrisburg
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Herrin
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McLeansboro
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Metropolis
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Mt. Vernon
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Murphysboro
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Nashville
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Pinckneyville
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Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
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Vienna
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West Frankfort
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Offices - Missouri

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Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D
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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

JO ANN ASHMAN

2135 DIVISION

MURPHYSBORO, IL 62966

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

I'M NOT ABLE TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE THIS AREA SO. ILL.

Thank you for your support.

Ms Jo Ann Ashman
2135 Division St
Murphysboro, IL 62966-2323

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Charleston
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Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Faisel Ahmad, M.D. • Omar Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. Robert Klppenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • Micah Brasel, O.D. • Dolly Campbell, O.D William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. •. Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Rachel Shewmake, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D. • Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

MYRA LOGSDON
901 S. BENTLEY
MARION, IL 62959

Marion, Southern Ill, + many other areas, Depend on Marion Eyecenter for all of our eye care needs. It is a well established Business for 30 years!!, in our area! We need it, we depend on it! Please leave it alone!

Myra Logsdon,

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons. If you are a senior, or No means to travel, This Business is a 'life saver!! If you do not have to have eye care, you can't imagine

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
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- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entitv
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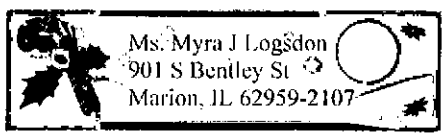

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

Vienna, Illinois
18 March 2011

Marion Eye Center
Marion, Illinois

We would like to add our support to Dr. Ahmad and his team for the outstanding work they have accomplished in the Marion facility.

Both of us have had eye surgery and since we are in our 80's it would have been nearly impossible for us to travel outside the area.

Please --let "our" eye center remain under the ownership and decision making of Dr. Ahmad and his team. Let them remain here where they are needed.

Sincerely,

Harold Orr

RoseMary Orr (Mrs Harold)

Harold E. Orr
RoseMary Orr

Mr & Mrs Harold Orr
PO Box 601
Vienna, IL 62995

I am writing this in support of the Marion Eye Centers request and intent to purchase a facility in Marion for the benefit of their patients in the Carbondale-Marion-Southern Illinois areas. Although the Marion Eye Centers function well--but inconveniently--in their surgical facility in Mt. Vernon, there is no question that the burden of traveling to Mt. Vernon puts a real hardship on those who live in the Carbondale-Marion area. To get a realistic picture of how many people are affected, you need only visit the parking area just west of Carbondale on any day---dozens and dozens of vehicles bringing patients to the Carbondale facility. And of course, many of them having to drive or be transported to Mt. Vernon to take advantage of the surgical facility there. It is really the opposite of convenient.

I understand that the Illinois Health Planning Board is considering an application from an organization that is competing with the Marion Eye Center for the purchase of the Marion Surgical Center--and this organization is neither physician- nor healthcare-oriented. I know what the Marion Eye Centers do, what their current service to this community is, and what their contribution is to the visual health and also (please don't forget!) the economic growth of our area. Their intention to expand the overall facility of as well as the basic, continuous, and most important service of Eyesight!

My support for the Marion Eye Centers comes from the experience that I and my family have had with them. Having this facility available in Carbondale and in Marion has been convenient as well as "comfortable", and going to Mt. Vernon for necessary surgery has been "uncomfortable"—but better there than in St. Louis or Memphis or St. Louis. I'm writing this because I consider that facility to be very important to the economy and reputation of the Marian/Carbondale area, and I emphasize the value to the economy and the reputation of Southern Illinois.

Although the scale is smaller, less well-known, I'd like to say that the growth of the Marion Eye Centers--dependent on your decision to allow them to grow and continue their full function in Marion and in the facility that they are asking you to approve--will become more and more important as a value in our area.

Cordially,

Charles Parish

Charles Parish (Ph.d.)
[retired: Southern Illinois University]

600 W. Oak St.
Carbondale IL 62901
(618) 549-1398

PARISH
600 W. OAK
CARBONDALE, IL 62901

March 19, 2011

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter concerning the impending purchase of the Marion Surgery Center. I was unaware of this transaction until recently, and I am strongly opposed to the sale (especially by an non-physician non-healthcare entity). This sale would greatly affect many people in the surrounding communities in the Marion, IL area. There are numerous elderly patients that use the Marion Surgery Center for cataract surgery, retinal surgery, laser surgery, etc., These patients would possibly have to find other means of travel to get to a new Surgery Center, for instance, a taxi (expense) or some other form of public transportation. Quite often the elderly must depend on a family member, neighbor, or friend to transport them and wait while the surgery is taking place. A big problem would be, if there is no one to take them or someone has to miss work (loss of a days' wages) to spend hours waiting for the surgery to be completed. Changing physicians to someone outside the Marion area could cause a lot of trauma for the elderly. Having had Dr. Ortiz as my physician for numerous years, it would cause me a great inconvenience. I still teach school and it is hard now to get a late appointment since I have faculty and committee meetings that I am committed too. Traveling out of the area would not be the best option for me. The price of gas continues to climb and I see this as another problem for many patients. I am also concerned about some of the employees that might lose their jobs. Gas isn't any cheaper for them or the doctors to travel to a new facility either. And, their salaries probably would not be increased which makes this sale an even greater mistake. Thanks for listening, and please be cautious as to your decision on this sale as it creates more problems than you realize!

Sincerely,

Sharon L Wunderle

Sharon L. Wunderle

Sharon and Steve Wunderle
121 Prairie Road • Carterville, IL 62918-2331

3-17-11

Dr. Ahmad,

It would be much more convenient, for the people in our area, to come to Marion, instead of having to travel to Mt. Vernon. Fortunately, I was able to go up the night before, but not everyone is that lucky.

Some of my friends are in need of cataract surgery, but are putting it off, because they don't have a way to Mt. Vernon & back home.

Hopefully, you will be able to purchase the Marion surgical center, and keep it open for our area. You have mine & my husband's support on this.

Donna Coffee
Harrisburg, IL.
Kermit Coffee

Kermit & Donna Coffee
1625 May St
Harrisburg IL 62946-3876

To: Marion Eye Centers + Optical

From: Geraldie Glasco

Date: 03-14-2011

I am writing this letter in respance to the one I just received. I agree that The Marion Surgery Center Should remain in our area. Doctors Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and Dr. Olk should remain the Surgens, For The Following reasons.

Convenience to All The Patients In The Area
Patients Should Not Have To Go Outsid The Area
Being Able To Get To The Doctor Work Place With Ease
Service That Is Needed In The Area On A Daily Basis
Loss Of Job In Our Area

G. GLASCO
PO BOX 3102
Carbondale, IL
62902

Sencerly
Geraldine Glasco

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

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Staff

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

Dear Drs.
You have my total support in opposing this purchase & certificate.
Vera B. Phillips

VERA PHILLIPS

2950 WEST RIDGE PLACE APT 101

CARBONDALE, IL 62901

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

I oppose a non-physician non-healthcare entire to be granted the purchase of Marion Surgery Center. These physicians have been seeing patients and doing surgery for more than 25 years. This would be a major inconvenience for me & other patients. We need these physicians in this area to provide retina services. These physicians have more right to stay where they are & practice as they have been practing.

NAME: Kathy L Rodman

ADDRESS: 1029 Highway 149

Murphysboro, IL 62966

PHONE NUMBER: (618) 684-6094

March 31, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board,

I am in favor of the proposed purchase of the Southern Illinois Surgery Center by the Marion Eye Center. I have had two corneal transplants performed by Dr. Ortiz, and my mother has had two cataract implants performed by Dr. Ahmad at that location.

Prior to becoming a patient with the Marion Eye Center group, I had to travel to St. Louis for my first three eye surgeries. The Marion facility is more convenient for people living in southern Illinois. Surgery in St. Louis meant time, travel, food, and lodging expenses.

Please consider carefully this matter regarding the purchase of the center.

Thank you,

Beth Perry

Wanda Perry

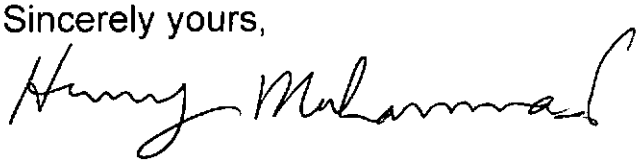
Re:Southern Illinois Surgery Center

April 2, 2011

To whom it may concern,

It has recently come to my attention that the surgery center located in Marion Illinois is up for sale and an attorney is attempting to buy it. I am writing this letter to let you know that to sell the surgery center to an attorney would be a huge mistake. In my opinion the most qualified and trustworthy people to operate the surgery center would be the Marion Eye Center. It is common knowledge around these parts that the doctors and staff of the Marion Eye Center have a proven record of excellence and are number one when it comes to patient care and surgical procedures. The health of my entire family has been maintained by the Marion Eye Center. Dr. Ahmed has been instrumental in keeping me in fine working order and I am certain the he and the other doctors associated with him would make the surgery center an outstanding medical facility for the residents of Carbondale, Marion, Carterville, Herrin, and the rest of Southern Illinois. I am just one individual but I am certain that there are many, more people who think and feel as I do about the Marion Eye Center. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely yours,



Henry Muhammad

604 North Wall

Carbondale, Illinois 62901

618 713 3564 (Feel Free to Call anytime)

Shawn Tinsley
806 Dorthella Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901

04-03-11

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in regards to the selling of the Marion Surgical Center to an Attorney. I am against the sell and I ask that you please reconsider your decision. Losing the Surgical Center would be a great loss for the community.

Thank you,

Shawn Tinsley

April 2, 2011

To whom it may concern,

The Surgery Center of Southern Illinois in Marion Illinois is for sale and will no longer be providing the much needed healthcare and surgical services to this region. At present, a law firm of attorneys is in the process of purchasing the Surgery Center. This purchase would not be in the best interest of Southern Illinoisans. The Marion Eye Center is a leader in providing cornerstone high quality optical goods and services at low and reasonable costs that are reflective of these critical economic times. In my opinion the Marion Eye Centers are the best optical and surgical facilities to run and operate the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois. The purchase of the Surgery Center by the Marion Eye Centers would be very beneficial to Southern Illinois but moreover, its residents.

Sincerely,

Valerie Muhammad
604 N. Wall Street
Carbondale, IL 62901

April 4, 2011

Re: Sale of Surgery Center of Southern Illinois

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to vouch for the personal character of Dr. Maqbool Ahmad. I have known him since 1994, and have had the pleasure of building both a professional and personal relationship with him and his family. I have always known Dr. Ahmad to be of good character.

Dr. Ahmad's ability to run a thriving business is evidenced by the success of Marion Eye Centers and Optical. His centers, which first opened over 30 years ago, serve both Southern Illinois and Southeast Missouri at dozens of locations. He has made high-quality eye care available to those of us who live in local small towns. The recent opening in Du Quoin has been a blessing to those less-fortunate ones in my community who used to have to pay for transportation to another town.

In the 17 years I've known him, he has been a very charitable man. He has donated to many organizations. Carbondale High School students have benefited from his many contributions towards their scholarship fund. There have also been many occasions when disadvantaged ones in the community have benefited from his professional services.

Therefore I recommend against the sale of the surgery center to a non-medical service provider.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. L. Abdul Rahim Khalil, MSW

621 W Main

Du Quoin, IL 62832

Phone: (618) 203-2249

To whom this may concern:

my children has been a patient to Dr. AHMAD for years, and has given them the best care. He is a very hardworking, friendly, and dedicated Doctor, who gets very involved with the care and well-being of his patients.

Tishaunder Ward

April 4, 2011

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I write with regard to the potential sale of the Marion Eye Center property. I respectfully request that you seriously consider the impact this sale would have on the medical services currently provided by this center. The care that my family and I have received through this agency has been exemplary.

The sale of this property to may well jeopardize the quality of service currently provided. In a region where sound medical care is difficult to find, I urge you to keep the well being of our community members in mind.

I recommend against the sale of the surgery center to a non medical service provider.

Sincerely,

Kathy Renfro

PO BOX 345

DeSoto, Illinois 62924

David Mueller
210 Dillinger Rd.
Carbondale, IL. 62901

April 2, 2011

City of Marion, City Council & Mayor
Marion City Council
1102 Tower Square
Marion, IL.

Dear Mayor Butler and Members of the City Council

I recently moved from Phoenix, Arizona were I was under the care of a prominent eye surgeon for 10 years. I was diagnosed with a condition in both eyes were my eyesight would deteriorate and be lost.
In visiting the Marion Eye Center, I was put under the care of Doctor Ahmad and Doctor Olk. It was determined that my vision could be saved and I had my 1st operation at the Marion, Southern Illinois Surgery Center.

My family & I have come to trust the doctors, nurses and technicians at this facility and now count on them for our current and future needs. The convenience and proximity of this facility is a great asset to Carbondale, Marion and surrounding areas. We ask that you carefully consider the future of this facility and keep in mind the good reputation the present management has earned the several people it employs and what a valued establishment and resource it is for the City of Marion.

Respectfully,

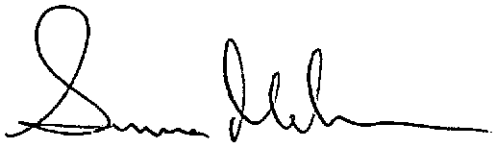
David Mueller

To the planning board of Marion Surgical Center:

My family and I are patients at Marion Eye Center. My whole family is very happy with the wonderful doctors and staff who work and provide excellent service at Marion Eye Center. It would be hard for our family to travel to a farther away surgical center for procedures.
We don't want to see Surgical Center going in the hands of non-physicians, especially lawyers.

We support Marion Eye center for the purchase of the Marion Surgical Center and wish they stay in our area and keep providing best care for their patients.

Sincerely,



Sumera Makhdoom
1220 Da Cla Mar Ct.
Carbondale, IL 62901

To Whom It May Concern:

In regards to the sale of The Marion Surgical Center, we respectfully request it be sold to The Marion Eye Center rather than a non-medical entity such as an attorney.

Sab Hill

April 4, 2011

Sabrina Hill
525 South Sycamore
Apt A
Carbondale, IL 62901

Debra Ward
438 N. 8th Street
Murphysboro, Ill
62966

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to support Dr. Ahmad. He is a hard working man and very dedicated to his patients. My grand kids are patients for him.

It would be a shame to let the Marion Surgery Center go to an attorney. Some one that is not in the field of being an eye doctor.

The Marion Surgery Center should go to Dr. Ahmad.

Thank You

Debra Ward

To whom it concern:

I'm writing this letter in opposition of the purchase and approved certification of the sale of the Marion Eye Center to anon –physician non healthcare entity. This sale will cause me to travel outside of my commuting area for services. The sale of this facility will cause loss of jobs in our community which will lead to a loss of revenue.

Arlene Nelson

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERNE!

I recently was informed that the Marion Eye Center was up for sale. And Dr, Ahmad signed a letter of intent to purchased it in order to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. If they are not allowed to purchase this property and building we as member of the community will be inconvenience. We will half to travel outside the area. We really need retina service and eye care here. I know because I lost my eye sight and had to travel to St. Louis. Pay high gas, and rent a hotel overnight quick a expense to me and to all if this Marion eye center is taken away. Also a lot of people will be losing their jobs. And also the revenue the community will be losing..

Doloros V. Bratten

Doloros V Bratten

40 Charles Lane
Creal Springs, IL. 62922

03-23-11

Gentlemen:

I'm 88 years old + need and want the Marion Eye Center in Marion.

Sincerely,

NAME: Kenneth L. Atwood

ADDRESS: 12043 Route 37

Marion, Ill. 62959

PHONE NUMBER: 618-993-3448

03-23-11

Gentlemen:

To whom it may concern: I'm 88 years old & want & need the Marion Eye center here in Marion.

yours truly,

Juanita B. Samuels
1305 West Mack Ave.
Marion, Illinois 62029

3/13/11

I am opposed to the new non-physician non-healthcare entity taking over the Marion eye center.

I have received eye care from Dr Ortiz for 20+ years and I am not interested in traveling long distances to receive eye treatment. The Marion eye center should be kept in the service of Dr Ahmad, Dr Ortiz, + Dr Ymana

Kenneth + Conrad
Grand Tower, Ill

March 19, 2011
307 Vaux St.
Zeigler, Il. 62999

To Whom It May Concern:
RE: Marion Eye Center
P.O. Box 1178
Marion, Il. 62959

How unfortunate that there are people in Marion, Il. who would not appreciate the marvelous care and facilities we enjoy with Marion Eye Center.

We can't attend the April 5, 2011 meeting, but certainly oppose any action which would not allow Marion Eye Center to purchase the SCA in Marion. We have had cataract surgery, retinal repairs and a variety of eye problems which were cared for in excellent fashion. Most certainly we deserve to have this type of eye care close to our homes. Do not allow Dr. Ahmad's Eye Center to be denied this surgery center for our care.

Thank you very much.

Charlotte and Ernest Sparks

Ernest and Charlotte Sparks
307 Vaux Street
Zeigler, IL 62999

Doris Cresto
111 Thomas Drive
Cobden, Il 62920

Att: Marion Eye Centers and Optical

I received you letter concerning no longer performing eye surgeries in Marion. I know that you would like for me to support you on this possible move, but regrettably I cannot. I am an elderly woman and have a hard time getting around; also I have to rely on the kindness of others for transportation and would no longer be able to use your services should you move any further away.

Thank you,

Doris Cresto

1995 State Route 146 E
Anna, IL 62906
March 16, 2011

TO Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that doctors at the Marion Eye Center are no longer able to perform surgery in Marion, IL due to a lack of a surgery center.

My family has a long history of having eye surgeries performed in Marion, Il and consider it a great inconvenience to travel out of state for such surgery. Recently, a family member, who lives 20 minutes from Marion was required to travel much farther. Due to the increase of gasoline prices and not being familiar with the new site caused much concern. It is not an option to go elsewhere for the services provided by the Marion Eye Center.

My husband and I have been patients of the doctors for many years. We are also closer to Marion than to other places where the surgery might be performed. Also, our family physician is in Marion. When we have appointments, sometimes we eat at local restaurants, purchase other items – other words, we shop–spend money in Marion.

It is my opinion, Dr. Ahmad should be allowed to purchase the surgery center since he has signed a letter of intent to purchase. He will staff the center with competent, caring people, providing many jobs to local people; therefore, helping our local economy. He has history of providing high quality services to residents of Southern Illinois. He has proven himself in the healthcare business. Has the non-healthcare group done the same?

Let's keep eye surgery by the doctors of the Marion Eye Center in Marion, IL.

Respectfully,

Catherine Keedy

Catherine Keedy

March 13,2011

Marion Eye Center & Optical

We are upset about the idea that our Drs. might have to move. I hope whoever is for this would consider we older people that have a hard time going out of town for apointments. Many are unable to drive and have to depend on family or friends to take them to these appointments.
We both have used the Marion Eye Center for years and trust them. Our eyes are valuable to us and don"t want anyone else.
Surely, the people of Marion will realize the loss of this place will be a great hindrance.
Charles and Louise Hoffard of Johnston City, Il.

409 N. Westridge Dr.
Carbondale, IL 62901
March 15, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board
Springfield, IL

Gentlemen:

As a patient of Dr. George Ortiz, Dr. Michael Kalaher and Dr. Olk of the Marion Eye Center, I find it much more convenient to have necessary surgical procedures performed at the Marion facility as I live in Carbondale. I find it most inconvenient and somewhat stressful to have to travel over an hour to Mt. Vernon for surgical procedures.

The Marion Surgery Center is very convenient as well as an excellent surgical/.medical facility, I believe it is to everyone's advantage that it continue to be maintained as a medical facility, preferably owned and administrated by Dr. Ahmad and his very competent staff.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lilly Crane

Carbondale, Illinois
March 15, 2011

Dear Marion Eye Centers & Optical

In responce to your letter, our service has been wonderful for many years and would be a great loss to our community, to make us go out side of our area for eye care, specially for elder patients as well as loss of more jobs for many are at this area are out of jobs. You've done an excellent job with experienced doctors, surgeons, nurses & staff, please continue in the Southern Illinois Area.

Hope the letters are helpful in keeping your center services here in Marion & Carbondale, Illinois

Sincerely
Diana Garoian

Ms. Diana Garoian
705 S Murrie Dr
Carbondale IL 62901

To Whom it may Concern,

I Feel that any medical Facility should stay in The area So Patients can be seen and treated with out having to go some where else. Dr Ahmad offers a good service that is convenient for the patients and Keeps Jobs in the area.

NAME: Floyd R. Thurman

ADDRESS: 300 N 7th St 1st 507

Murphysboro, Illinois 62966

PHONE NUMBER: 618-565-2548

Dr. Ahmad should be able to aquire the Bldg in Marion Ill, as the drive to Mt Vernon can be a hardship to elderly patients especially in the winter.
The drive North can be unpleasant if the Car A/C is not working in July or August.
When my wife had her operation up north I had just hurt my back and was allmost not able to make it.

NAME: Russell & + Nancy C. Brinker
ADDRESS: 1310 & Rocky Comfort Road

PHONE NUMBER: 618-893-4789

CHERYL R. TRENCH

509 East Clark Trail
Herrin, IL 62948
Home – 618-942-3027 Mobile – 618-967-4082
Email – CRTheSouthern@aol.com

March 14, 2011

Dear Dr. Ahmad and Staff - Marion Eye Center,

This is a letter of support noting the fine work and tremendous eye care you and the other doctors have provided all these many years to the City of Marion and to the region.

You have been more than good neighbors to all of us who require not only eyeglasses, but also more formidable eye care, and in my case, retina care and recently cataract surgery. Your purchase of the Marion Surgery Center makes excellent sense to the thousands of eye patients you and your staff have seen over the last 25 years.

You have been my ophthalmologist of choice since the mid-1960's when you began your practice in Carbondale. I have been more than pleased with the excellent care I have received from you and the Marion Eye Center and my local optometrist in Herrin that is part of your eye care group.

I am hopeful that you will be able to continue to offer the many detailed and difficult eye surgeries and procedures that you currently extend to us from all over the area in the city of Marion. It is convenient and one of the only facilities in the southern most counties of Illinois that can offer many of the intricate eye care services that so many of us need. We don't want to travel to St. Louis or Paducah or Cape Girardeau.

I hope there will be a positive outcome to your upcoming desire to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. I will be happy to attend the public hearing on this matter on Tuesday, April 5 at 10 a.m. at the Marion City Council Chambers.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Ranchino Trench
Herrin, IL 62948

Donald L Smith
6590 State Rte 127 - N
Alto Pass, IL 62905

March 13, 2011

Marion City Council

I am surprised that the Marion Eye Center may be relocated after Dr. Ahmad has signed a letter of intent to buy the property. This business is established and is such a need to the community. My wife and I both have had surgery in that location also, my Mother and Step-Father. After retiring from the Army and spending over ten years overseas serving my country, I'm not surprised what people do to their own community. Let's quit turning this country upside down and continue taking care of the people that have made us great. Healthcare is a necessity and long trips on the road is not what keeps families happy, since someone has to take the patient.

Donald L Smith

Sincerely
Donald L. Smith
Chief Warrant Officeer
U.S. Army Retired

Marion Eye Centers, March 12, 2011

I am writing this letter opposing this certificate. It concerns me that a non-physician, non-healthcare entity undermine the purchase. I do not want to travel outside the area. I like my doctor and do not want to change.

Respectfully,

Bonnie L Haines
Bonnie L. Haines
703 E 7th St
West Frankfort, IL 62896

3-18-2011

To Marion Eye center, and marion city council

my name is Cletus Deon Thompson, I have been a patient of Dr. Ortiz for 20 years. I Definately oppose the moving of the Marion Surgery Center. I'm 70 years old this would be a tremendous inconvenience having to travel outside the area because of future need of surgery.

Sincerely Yours,
Cletus Deon Thompson

address # 2803 E. HICKORY LN
MARION, IL. 62959
Phone 618 997. 1875

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
1-800-344-7058

McLeansboro
1-618-643-2650

Metropolis
1-800-344-7058

Mt. Vernon
1-618-244-2777

Murphysboro
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Nashville
1-618-327-3900

Pinckneyville
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Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
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Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D
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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

To Whom It May Concern:

I urge you to work with Dr. Ahmad in keeping the surgery options in Marion. It is a much needed and valuable resource for the community. Otherwise, I am certain having to travel out of Town is going to be a real hardship on many citizens who need care.

NAME: Nancy Parris

ADDRESS: 1218 East Oak St
West Frankfort IL 62896

PHONE NUMBER: 479-236-1896

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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I am a patient of Dr. Ahmad and I recently had to have a Cataract removed. Since the Marion Surgery Center was no longer available, I had to travel to Mt. Vernon, Il. to get this done, It was very inconvenient for me since I am not familiar with the City of Mt. Vernon and it is farther from my home.

The doctors at Marion Eye Center are very experienced since they have been doing surgery in Marion for several years, I would like to see them purchase the Surgery Center and continue using it because it is an asset to the Community by providing service to many Patients in So. Illinois + other areas.

NAME: Cletta D. Bee

ADDRESS: 515 SOUTH 3RD ST

RIDGWAY IL. 62979

PHONE NUMBER: 618 272-7172

CELL 313-0941

To MARION EYE CENTER
PO BOX 1178
MARION, IL 62959-9938

SIRS:

I don't WANT to LOSE MARION EYE (SCA) SURGERY CENTER. WE NEED HERE AND DON'T WANT to have to GO ELSEWHERE FOR OUR SURGERY NEEDS. This would BE VERY UNFORTUNATE for this AREA AND THESE FINE SURGEONS. LETS KEEP this SURGERY CENTER HERE.

SINCERELY
JAMES C. LANE
James C. Lane

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

ETHEL ROLAND

114 E HOMER

HARRISBURG, IL 62946

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support. Ethel M Roland

DEAR SIRS

I WOULD TO SEE THE MARION SURGERY CENTER STAY WHERE IT IS BECAUSE OF THE CONVIENCE OF THE LOCATION.

I DONT WANT TO HAVE TO TRAVEL OUT SIDE OF THE AREA TO SEE MY DOCTOR.

NAME: TOM SHACKLETON

ADDRESS: BOX 365

DESOTO IL. 62924

PHONE NUMBER: 618-867-2437

To Whom It May Concern,

My wife and I have been going to Marion Eye Center for several years. She has seen Dr Ortiz and I regularly see Dr. Olk. Since I started seeing him my vision has improved. It would be impossible to travel to another location to get it done. I am on a fixed income and it is hard enough to get by with what I have. Adding more gas expenses into it would strain my budget even more.

The Economy is bad enough as it is. Why take more jobs and send them overseas or to Mexico? Let's keep some in the Marion area. I think the Marion area will be very devastated if the Surgery Center is sold to the non-healthcare entity. They would lose a lot of money in revenue and as I mentioned before a lot of jobs gone. This affects a lot of things therein. Loss of jobs equals loss of income loss of income equals fall in housing market so on and so on.

In other words I am strongly against moving the Marion Eye Center out of Marion Illinois.

Sincerely,

Ronald England

Ronald England

March 15, 2011

To Whom it may concern:

My wife, Roberta, and I have been using the Marion Eye Center for over twenty five years and we would not like to see it sold. We very much oppose this sale.

It would be of great inconvenience to us older patient to have to travel outside the area to see the surgeons. Over the years we have been satisfied with the way we have always been treated, especially with all the work that has been done by Dr. Umana, Dr. Olk. and staff.

So we trust that a non-physician non-health group will be unsuccessful in buying the Marion Eye Center.

Sincerly,

Arthur Donley

Arthur & Roberta Donley

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
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Carbondale
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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

I am satisfied with all of the staff at the Marion Eye Center especially Dr. Umana and Dr. Ahmad. I would like for everything to stay as it is. P.J. Perschbacher

PJ PERSCHBACHER

118 WATERS BOX 211

JOHNSTON CITY, IL 62951

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

March 19, 2011

To the Marion City Council Chamber:

In regard to the opposition regarding the purchase of the SCA building by the Marion Eye Center we would like to comment that the Marion Eye Center has been a place that is convenient to go when we have had eye problems corrected either through corrective lenses following very capable examiners or 'surgeries' for glaucoma and cataracts. If not for these surgeries one of us would be totally blind. The convenience to Marion Eye Center has limited our visits that would have otherwise taken up a whole day to travel. Our necessary visits amount to 1 or 2 days a month each year for the past 6 years. Please allow the sale!

Rebecca Wharry

Doris Pierce
Rebecca Duvall Stevens

Jackie D. Wharry
214 Wilcox Ave
Zeigler IL 62999

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
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Flora
1-618-662-3202

Harrisburg
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Offices - Missouri

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1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Faisel Ahmad, M.D. • Omar Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • Micah Brasel, O.D. • Dolly Campbell, O.D William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Rachel Shewmake, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D. • Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

CLARA ELDER
RT 3 BOX 261
GOLCONDA, IL 62938

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

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To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

Please send form again ↓
Mrs. Clara Elder

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Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

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HAZEL WEBB
13305 LAKEVIEW DR
CREAL SPRINGS, IL 62922

To whom it may Concern we need this center to stay here for our Marion eye center please help the seniors keep it here. we have not the money or transportation to go out of town. these is a very needed business for are town of Marion. Hazel B Webb

To Our Loyal Patients:

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Mrs. Hazel B. Webb
13305 Lakeview Dr.
Creal Springs, IL 62922

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the
- Patients will travel to another facility ..here the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
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To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

March 17, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

The aspect of the Marion Surgery Center closing would be a great loss for this area. Not only for the patients, but the loss of jobs and revenue in the community.

As a former patient, having eye surgery at this location, the convience for me was a great asset. I was required to visit the surgeon a few hours after the surgery so he could see if everything looked normal. Had I traveled from this area, I could not have gone home and waited there. What would I have done for four or five hours awaiting my appointment later that day if I had to travel out of this area?

Please remember all the good that this facility does for the area people when making your decision.

Respectfully,
Hobart Brown

Paul & Marilyn McRoy
1402 Manning St apt 6
Murphysboro, Il 62966-2072
March 20, 2011

Marion Eye Centers
P. O. Box 1178
Marion, Il 62959-9938

Dear Sirs:

We need for you to keep your office in Marion. Paul has doctored with your office before 1986. He had his first cataract surgery in 1986. We are now 76 and 80 years old. Paul doesn't drive any longer and Marilyn doesn't drive long distances. Paul has a retina problem & Dr Olk sees him here. It would be very very inconvenient if we did not have your office in Marion. I pray that you will be able to retain your office there in Marion.

Sincerely

Marilyn McRoy

Paul McRoy

3-19-11

SIRS

Sirs;

I would like to see the marion + Eyecenter stay in marion. It would be very helpful to me as well as the other customers. It would be very hard to get to see one of you ~~[illegible]~~ it I had to have surgery, which I am going to have to have before very long. I have been to a Retina surgeon at ~~[illegible]~~ mt vernon. I hope you can get your way at marion for ~~[illegible]~~ that would ~~[illegible]~~ so much better for me.

Yours Truly
Norman E Butler

Norman Butler
441 N. Thompson St.
Carrier Mills, IL 62917-1146

3-18-11

TO Whom it May Concern

Please don't move your offices! It is very important you stay in the Marion area. I had surgery there and received great care. There is also the loss of jobs and revenue for the area if the Marion Eye Center is forced to move out of the area. I continue to need the services of the Marion Eye Center - in MARION. It will be very difficult for me to go elsewhere.

Thanks — Pattie J Conley.

PATTIE CONLEY
PO BOX 24
NEW BURNSIDE IL 62967

Dear Sir

We, as Senior citizens can not be without a place as handy as Marion for eye surgery Im 87 & like all others, need this building for older patients who can not afford to go any further distance for eye care Marion Eye center has patients in so many places, they certainly depend to keep going to Marion for treatment

of all places, why did you pick this building for your non physician health care, when there are other buildings available

I say find another place to do & donot try to take over a place that has been established for these good Doctors, who as a patient depend so much on their highly praised work Please don't upset their good & reliable care.

Thank you
Kathleen Goetting
201 Lon Dell
Chester Ill 62233

Ms. Kathleen Goetting
201 Lon Dell Dr
Chester, IL 62233

MARCH 11, 2011

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN,

I AM A SENIOR CITIZEN OF 77 YEARS AND I AM IN NEED OF A SURGICAL EYE CENTER LOCATED CLOSE TO MY HOME AND IN MY OWN CITY BECAUSE I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FIND ANY TRANSPORTATION IF I HAD TO DRIVE MANY MILES, AS IT IS I CAN FIND NEIGHBORS TO DRIVE ME.

WE NEED TO CONSIDER US OLDER PEOPLE THAT ARE NOT ABLE TO DRIVE, ALSO WE CANNOT AFFORD THE EXPENSE THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO TRAVEL OUT OF OUR CITY OF MARION, IL.

THANK-YOU,

Lewis Hanks

We need the surgery's done in Marion. The additional time and cost to go out of our local area are very hard on the older folks of this area

Please help establish a surgery center here in MARION

very pleased patients of Marion Eye Center

NAME: Kenneth and Sally Jaffe

ADDRESS: 102 Ryder Cup Blvd

Marion IL 62959

PHONE NUMBER: 618 998-9494

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

CATHERINE MCCHESNEY

608 S HADFIELD ST

MARION, IL 62959

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

Catherine M. Chesney
a very loyal patient

9-14-2011

Illinois Health Planning Board
Springfield. Il

Board Members,

My husband George Chenoweth and I are wishing to tell you of our concern about the sale of the Marion Eye Center and hope that you consider Dr. Ahmad's offer to purchase this facility. We are VERY elderly and need a facility close by when surgery of this nature has to be done: pre and post visits included in travel distances.

If the purchase by a non health entity is permitted, we will experience hardships here at the southern most part of the state.

We also see this as a loss of jobs in our community as well as a loss of revenue in surrounding towns.

The citizens of this area all thank you,

Mary Ann Chenoweth
202 Peach Dr.
Anna, Il. 62906

To the Illinois Health Planning Board,

I would like to comment on the possiblity of Marion Eye Center moving away from Marion, Il. I'm a Senior Citizen that has been going to this facility for close to 15 yrs. I have glaucoma. I have my testing done here. As I sure you're aware, gas prices have risen to close to $4.00 a gallon. This & the inconvenience of traveling a longer distance would really hurt, since my wife & I are on a limited budget. Thank you for the opportunity to express my feelings to you.

Sincerely
Edward P. O'Keefe

As a patient of Marion Eye Centers for the last eight years. I prefer to be a remaining patient in Marion. I am unable to drive, therefore I must hire a driver to take me to my appointments. If I were to have to go elsewhere from Marion for my appointments/surgeries it will raise the cost of all endeavors which is extremely unpleasant and already the cost from Eldorado to Marion is a burden.

Thank you, Cannan
Thomas

NAME: Thomas Cannan
ADDRESS: 370 Woodlake Rd
Eldorado, IL 62930
PHONE NUMBER: 618-273-2634

March 12, 2011

To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that a non-healthcare entity is attempting to buy the Marion Surgery Center. It is my opinion that healthcare facitlities should be run by healthcare professionals like the surgeons at Marion Eye Center.

I have been a patient of Dr. Olk for some time now. My first surgery with him involved a long trip to St Louis. I was thrilled when it became possible for him to do further surgeries in Marion. I have also had to use another surgeon from Marion Eye Center and it was very convenient to have the surgery done locally. It would be a major undertaking but if I had to, I would travel to whereever these surgeons are forced to go to perform surgery.

In this economy, it would be a major shame if our community lost the jobs and revenue these surgeons bring in.

My worst fear however is the fact that Southern Illinoisans shouldn't be forced to look for healthcare out of this area and be subject to the decisions about their care in the hands of non-medical people! There has been enough of this happening and we need to stop it now.

I fully support the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center by the surgeons at Marion Eye Center and oppose the sale to a non-healthcare entity!

Sincerely,

Charley W. Kazee

220 Dillinger Road
Carbondale IL 62901

March 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to support the Marion Eye Center in the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center.

We oppose the purchase of the facility by a non-physician non-healthcare entity because:

1. Inconvenience to the patient
2. Patients having to travel outside the area
3. Patients having to travel to the facility the doctors operate in because of his experience and integrity
4. Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
5. Unknown future of the surgery center

Sincerely,

Glenn F. Brown

Glenn Brown

Doris Brown

Doris Brown

March 17, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter because I do not want to see the Marion Eye Centers doctors have to go elsewhere to do surgeries. I have used the surgery center three times and it would be a big inconvenience to have to go somewhere else. I would not want to travel somewhere else for these procedures. Our community needs this center. We do not need any more loss of jobs in our area. I truly hope you will take all these things into consideration and that the Marion Eye Centers + Surgery Center will remain here with the same doctors.

Sincerely,

Fred Kohout

To whom it may concern,

I would like for Dr Ahmad to be allowed to purchase the Surgery Center in Marion. I would be inconvenienced if I had to travel to Mt. Vernon for my surgerys.

Paulett Young

NAME: Paulett Young

ADDRESS: 1305 Ritchey Drive
MARION, IL 62959

PHONE NUMBER: 618-997-4369

Mar. 15, 2021

To whom it may Concern;

This facility has always been an asset for the area. As a senior citizen, I want this center for my care, as well as for others. It needs to stay as a Health Care facility.

Malene Smith

NAME: Helen Malene Lovell

ADDRESS: 10018 Champaign Rd. Mailing address
Johnston City; P.O. 615
Herrin, IL. 62948

PHONE NUMBER: 618-942-3266

To whom it may concern,

My name is June Kirkland I am a 76 year old female who has been under the care of DR Ahmad for diabetic neuropathy and I am unable to drive a long distance to get the care for my eyes that I need and without this care I will go blind .Even though it would be a large inconvenience to my family and myself I would travel to see my doctor cause of the experience and integrity he has. Please keep the surgery center in our community not only for people like myself but even for the people who need the jobs in our community the ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity should not be allowed you should think about our community and all the peoples lives that have been touched by these doctors.

Sincerely
June Kirkland

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

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EILEEN ROBINS

1503 COLIN BRADLEY UNIT D

MARION, IL 62959

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Thank you for your support.

I fully agree with all the above., It will be very bad thing for all concerned. Thank you

Eileen H. Robins

To Whom it may concern, I Terry Rady Oppose this certificate of someone else buying the Marion Eye Surgery Center. I need DR. Ortiz and the Eye DR.'s of the Marion Eye Center to be there for me. I cannot travel far, it would be very inconvenient!

Thank you,

Terry Rady
821 S. 4th
Herrin, Ill
618-988-8007 62948

March 14, 2011

Marion Eye Centers & Optical
PO Box 1178
Marion, Il 62959

Dear Sirs,

I have and continue to use the Marion Surgery Center for my optical needs and want to support the center for being there for me. I live in Murphysboro and would definitely be handicapped, as well as inconvenienced, if I had to go greater distance for my care.

The experienced staff of the Marion Eye Centers and Optical have met my needs for many years and I will continue to use the staff for my optical needs because of the track record I have witnessed.

Please know that I support the staff in their decision to stay at the surgery center.

Sincerely,

Alma Hicks

Alma Hicks
PO Box 395
Murphysboro, Il 62966

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Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D
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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

JEAN HATFIELD

308 W 11TH ST

JOHNSTON CITY, IL 62951

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

all of the above

Jean Hatfield

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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DENISE KENNEDY

608 EAST FIRST ST

CARTERVILLE, IL 62918

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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* all of these services are needed in this area

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

To whom it Concerns—

Keep it in Mind please—

Jobs are needed here.

People need facility here so they can

see and not have to drive.

away from area.

NAME: Betty Drake

ADDRESS: 1109 Glendale

Benton Ill.

PHONE NUMBER: 438-9492

To whom it may concern,

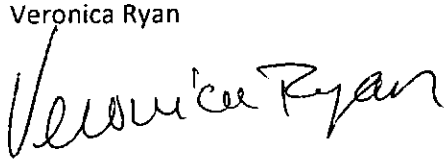
My name is Veronica Ryan and I have been working at the Marion Eye Centers and Optical Billing Department for about two months now. During my time as an employee of this corporation, I have learned that Dr. Ahamad and his partners operate over thirty-five stores in the Southern Illinois and South Eastern Missouri area. Of these thirty five locations, and the 34 doctors that are employed within the company, we have one surgery center which is located in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

I have become aware that recently Dr. Ahamad became interested in procuring a second surgery center which would be beneficial to the patients as well as the doctors. Benefits to the doctors would include more flexibility in scheduling, which in turn facilitates greater scheduling intervals for the patients. It goes without saying that this would generate more revenue for the company which means more tax dollars for the City of Marion which benefits the community immensely. Not to mention the dollars that would be spent in Marion Township from out of town patients.

This would benefit patients further by having more than one more location to choose from which prevents patients who are loyal to the Marion Eye Centers brand from finding other surgery centers that would be closer to their home. If patients do decide to take their business elsewhere, this means that work in the billing department, and other aspects of the business becomes scarce, and that job security becomes even more uncertain in this turbulent economy.

I have grown up in Marion and Marion Eye Centers and Optical, along with Dr. Ahmad have been a growing influence in this community. To ignore this expanding business and honest man for someone who would revert to means that could be construed to seem indirect and devious not only seems morally wrong but seems like a bad idea for the community, especially since this business has brought so much to this town. Thanks to Marion Eye Centers and Optical, others in the region have another reason to associate Marion with something beneficial to them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,
Veronica Ryan



March 9, 2011

To Whom This May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois is for sale. It has also known that Mr. Ron Osman is trying to buy it 'for the real estate". This does not seem to be a good thing for our community. Mr. Osman has no medical background and his questionable character is not a good fit for a surgery center.

My concern is that if Mr. Osman doesn't like a particular doctor, he will not allow him to practice there because he is a vindictive man. This fact would put the people of southern Illinois in great peril. Yes, they could go to a different city, but at what hardship to our citizens. There are other people or entities that would like to buy the Surgery Center and would not use it as a tool to hurt others.

It does not matter to me who buys it if they are ready to help our community. I am opposed to the sale of it to Mr. Ron Osman because I am aware of the damage he could cause.

Sincerely,

Laura Euans

618-687-1862

Murphysboro, IL 62966

ELIZABETH CULPEPPER

306 E 5th

West Frankfort, IL 62896

618-932-3553

March 24, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of support for Dr Ahmad and his fine staff that have served our community for over 25 years. He has served this area with the latest procedures available.

I applaud his vision securing new physicians and growing with the times. He has provided the staff and they should have the surgery center they deserve to serve our needs.

I personally see Dr Olk with a condition known as Macular Degeneration. I am so grateful to know that there will now be Retina Specialists that I can depend on and not have to travel to St Louis should I require emergency treatment.

I do not want a lawyer to make decisions about my medical facility.

Sincerely,

Betty Culpepper

Betty Culpepper

PAUL CULPEPPER

306 E 5th

West Frankfort, IL 62896

618-932-3553

March 24, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a patient of Dr Ortiz and have glaucoma. I depend on him and his staff to provide the most up to date treatment available.

I fully support Dr Ahmad and his staff trying to purchase the Southern Illinois Surgery Center. It seems imperative that we have these services in our community.

We are so fortunate to have these doctors on staff and to think that they are adding two new doctors that specialize in Retina so we do not have to travel to Cape or St Louis.

During this economic downturn, we need to embrace every job opportunity and realize how many jobs this surgery center will provide.

Sincerely,

Paul Culpepper

Paul Culpepper

Mrs. Gwen Anderson
1015 N Market St.
Marion, Il. 62959

March 28, 2011

To Whom it may concern,

In June of 2011 I will have worked at the Marion Eye Centers for eleven years. During this time I have worked hard along with the staff and physicians to provide excellent care to many wonderful patients. This care has allowed many of these patients to continue to be independent, therefore, giving them the ability and dignity needed to continue to preform the daily activities of life despite chronic conditions that limit their eyesight. Due to the excellent care along with personal attention that they have received at our practice, the majority of our patients have developed implicit trust in their physician.

However, many of our patients share a common problem. Due to age, chronic illness or both many of those we care for have a limited income and are also limited in their ability to obtain reliable transportation. In view of this, many of our patients find it difficult or impossible to travel out of the area for medical care. Therefore, to limit access to surgery in this area to patients who have developed trusting relationships with our physicians would be a great disservice to those who are an integral part of our communities in Southern Illinois.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Gwen Anderson

Gwen Anderson

To whom it may concern:

I feel that Dr. Ahmad should get to take ownership of the surgery center. I would not feel comfortable for myself nor my family members going to a surgery center that is run by Mr. Osman, a lawyer.
Please take this into consideration when making your final decision.

Thank you.

Emily Spence

To whom it may concern:

In regards to the surgery center, I feel that Dr. Ahmad should be the owner of this facility. Dr. Osman is a lawyer and I don't feel as the knowledge to run a surgery facility as well as a licensed physician, who currently owns a surgery center. I would feel much better knowing myself and my family was being treated and cared for at a surgery center that is run by a medical doctor.

Please take this into consideration when making your final decision.

Thank you.

Kathy Nation

April 28, 2011

I would like to express my concern over Mr. Ronald Osman purchasing the Surgery Center in Marion, IL.

How can an attorney intend to purchase a medical facility, with his limited or no knowledge at all of how to run a facility such as this? Will he be concerned that the patients who come to the facility be treated with the best possible care? Is he concerned that some patients will not be able to use this facility because some doctors will not be allowed to practice there? Is he worried about how inconvenient it will be for patients to travel even farther to get eye surgery? Is he even thinking about what is in the best interest of the patient at all?

These are valid questions that I believe should be considered when it is decided who purchases the Surgery Center. Dr Ahmad, owner of the Marion Eye Centers has always been about his patients, what is in their best interest. Dr Ahmad has invested a lot of his time and concern into many communities in the Southern Illinois area so those patients who need good quality eye care can get that in their area. His intent to purchase the Surgery Center in Marion, Il. is yet another gift of his concern for the community, for those patients who need eye surgery.

I implore you to take into consideration not who should purchase this facility but who would be acting in the best interest of the patient's in this area. Based on my arguments above I greatly oppose Mr. Osman's intent to purchase this facility. I do not believe his concern is for the patient or the community but for his own personal gain. If that is the way Mr. Osman wants to conduct business, the patient's will pay the ultimate price. When one acts for selfish reasons of their own, and does not consider the well-being of others or consider what would be best for others, only what he intends to gain, your decision should favor Dr. Ahmad.

Thank you for your time.

Darlene Seeger

Charles Shukiter
300 West 8th St
Johnston City, Il
62951

March 24, 2011

Marion Eye Centers
P.O. Box 1178
Marion, Il 62959

To Whom It May Concern:

I regret that I will be unable to attend the Illinois Health Planning Board hearing on Tuesday April 5, 2011, regarding your intention to purchase the Southern Illinois Surgery Center; however, I am writing to express my wholehearted support for your endeavor.

Speaking from my own personal vision problems, and the lack of a conveniently located center with experienced retina surgeons are some of the reasons that I have no useable vision in my left eye. Therefore, I believe your expansion of retina services in the Marion area is vital.

Charles Shukiter

March 15, 2011

Marion Eye Centers & Optical

I am currently a patient at the Marion Eye Center. I have been a patient since 1986.

I am writing this letter in opposition to a non-physician Non-healthcare entity trying to Undermine the purchase of the Marion Eye Center from Dr. Ahmad.

I have to travel quite a distance and it would be an inconvenience for me to travel elsewhere. Also, I have been a patient for such a long time and I have complete trust in the doctors at Marion Eye Center. This would cause a hardship for many elderly citizens.

Please reconsider and allow Dr. Ahmad to purchase Marion Eye Center in Marion.

Esther Wampler

April 1, 2011

To: Whom it may concern

Dr. Ahmad would like to purchase the Marion Eye Surgical Center located in Marion, Illinois.

I have met Dr. Ahmad and find him to be an astute engaging physician and businessman. I suggest that he would be a good choice to purchase the Marion Eye Surgical Center and that he would likely maintain the same high standards that he has in the 32 facilities that he owns in Southern Illinois and Southeast Missouri.

Sincerely

K L Cannon

K. L. Cannon

618- 214-1547

To whom it may concern:

I **HIGHLY OPPOSE** the sale of The Southern Illinois Surgery Center to a non-healthcare entity. The loss of the surgery center would highly impact our community. Patients would have to travel out of the area to receive medical care. We could possibly see a loss of jobs and revenue in our community. Dr. Ahmad is a wonderful physician and a very caring person. He cares deeply for his patients well being and would help them in any way possible no matter what. The sale of the surgery center to Dr. Ahmad would be providing the community with more Ophthalmologists and care for patients with retinal problems or any other eye issues that would involve surgery. The sale of the Surgery Center to Mr. Osman would be detrimental to the community and patients in Southern Illinois.

Kim Teeling

Kim Teeling

Marion, Illinois

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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Anna
1-618-833-8359

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DORIS HINES

44 HINES RD

MURPHYSBORO, IL 62966

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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I Hope DR Ahmad can keep on Doing
Eye SAB Sens
Heris a good Doc

Thank you for your support.

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FRANK GERHARDT

PO BOX 282

ROSICLARE, IL 62982

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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Frank Gerhardt

Thank you for your support.

To whom it may concern

I have used the services of the center for years and would like it to remain open.

Sincerely
Betty Luppin

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DOTTIE BRIDGES
905 S 17TH ST
MURPHYSBORO, IL 62966

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future. 4-11 4:30 Dr Olk

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons. Dr Olk 3-28 3:20

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

We need the Marion Eye Centers & Optical eye center where they are. Dottie Bridges

We have had several family members that have relied, depended on Marion Eye Center and anticipate more of our family to go through Marion Eye Center if the need be. It has Dr Ahmad and Dr Olk the ONLY trusted eye doctors. When it comes to something as precious as eye sight you dont mess around You go to the best. If need absoulty be we'd travel to them. Although in our minds, its comforting to know, we only have to travel from West Frankfort to Marion to see our eye doctors. It is convient for us this wonderful center being so close, we have nothing in West Frankfort that has experienced eye care physecians.

If this eye center was to ever close, it would be devistating, job losses would occur, inconvience of having to travel further to a office that you know nothing about are the Doctors good etc. With Marion Eye Center I know the ~~Doctors~~ are very experienced, are near enough for our family to travel to, to get the Best eye care.

Thank You

NAME: William & Denise Smith

ADDRESS: 14037 Rains Road

West Frankfort, Illinois

PHONE NUMBER: 618-932-2895

PS. We usally go to the restinant to eat while in Marion as most of the people in the waiting room say ~~Hope~~ they also have eaten and did shopping the day of their appointment thats revenue to Marion

Richard and Charlene Taylor
P.O. Box 74
Cambria, IL 62915
618 985-2694

To Whom It May Concern:

I am greatly disturbed to think that I may have to travel outside of my home area to receive competent care from my eye doctor. I now have a cataract that is not ready for surgery, but will be in the future and I am unhappy that I and my family may have to go elsewhere for surgery.

We have been happy with previous surgeries in our family from Dr. Ahmad and other surgeons.

Please reconsider this proposal. We are unhappy that people may even lose their jobs over this deal.

We will go so far as to say if this happens we may think twice about doing any business in Marion at all.

I own my own business and I talk to a lot of people in Southern Illinois. I will be happy to tell them all about this unfortunate incident if it comes to pass.

Sincerely,
Charlene Taylor

March 30, 2011

TO Whom It May Concern:

I have been a Marion Eye Center patient for 10 to 15 years and I am glad we have the facility in Marion. It is convenience to the residents of Marion and surrounding towns to have the center located in Marion. Residents don't have to travel long distance for a eye surgery center. If Marion Eye Center relocates to another town, Marion would lose a wonderful business and the resident would lose a local eye surgery center that is convenience for residents of Marion as well as the surrounding towns.

Bill Simmons

March 30, 2011

TO Whom It May Concern:

I have been a Marion Eye Center patient for 10 to 15 years and I am glad we have the facility in Marion. It is convenience to the residents of Marion and surrounding towns to have the center located in Marion. Residents don't have to travel long distance for a eye surgery center. If Marion Eye Center relocates to another town, Marion would lose a wonderful business and the resident would lose a local eye surgery center that is convenience for residents of Marion as well as the surrounding towns.

Maxine Simmons

Richard Taylor
P.O. Box 74
Cambria, IL 62915
618 985-2694

To Whom It May Concern:

My family and I have been happy with previous surgeries and emergency care from Dr. Ahmad and other surgeons at Marion Eye Center and are not happy to think that may not be able to be continued in Marion.

Please reconsider this proposal. We are unhappy that people may even lose their jobs over this deal. This is unfair to patients as well as to the Marion Eye Center doctors and the employees.

We will go so far as to say if this happens we may think twice about doing any business in Marion at all; that includes remodeling supplies, the Mall and restaurants. There are other nearby communities that would appreciate our business.

Sincerely,

Richard Taylor

April 18, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose the Certificate of Need Exemption for the surgery center in Marion, IL. As a member of the Southern Illinois community, I enjoy watching businesses and individuals in this region thrive. I believe that not only this business but Marion and the surroundings areas as a whole would suffer if this transaction took place. The ability to provide quality eye care and surgery would be severely compromised.

Thank you,

Bryan Hager

1590 Dutchman Lake Rd.
Vienna, IL 62995
April 25, 2011

Health Facilities & Service Review Board:
Other Interested Parties:

To Whom It May Concern:

My family would like to go on record opposing the change in ownership of the Marion Surgery Center. Dr. Ahmad has performed surgery on several family members at this center and his purcase agreement should be approved. I will have to go to Mt. Vernon for eye surgery twice next month and I would much prefer to travel to Marion for this operation. The Marion center is much more accessible to most of us in Southern Illinois as Marion is centrally located and near the interstate. The city of Marion will lose revenue because most of us will eat, shop and buy fuel while we are there for surgical appointments.

Please approve Dr. Ahmad's purchase proposal.

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Mathis

Jerry L. Mathis

Please allow the surgeons to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. The need it!

Alma McKinney

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

R. Neil Claussen
606 S Wedgewood Lane
Carbondale, IL 62901
April 23, 2011

To the Health Facilities and Services Review Board

I am a patient of the Marion Eye Centers & Optical and I'm scheduled to have cataract surgery in the near future. I was surprized to learn that I must go from my home in Carbondale to Mt. Vernon to have this done. Apparently there is no facility closer that can provide this service at this time. I'm told that Dr Maqbool Ahmad is interested in purchasing the Marion Surgery Center for this purpose but, that Mr Ronald Osman has also made an offer to purchase this facility.

I believe that is important that the Marion Surgery Center be owned and controlled by people who are a part of the medical community if it is to be operated in the best interest of the patients. Dr. Ahmad and the staff at the Marion Eye Centers have the confidence and respect of the Southern Illinois community.

While I can't speak personally about Mr Osman's character as I have had no personal dealings with him, I do know that he has been the center of a great deal of controversy in and around Marion. His actions have been widely criticized by many in the community. There is, therefore, no question that he lacks the trust and respect of many in this area, including many in the medical community.

Please consider the welfare of those in Southern Illinois in need of medical treatment in the future and do not approve the sale of this facility to Ronald Osman.

Respectfully Submitted by:

R Neil Claussen

R. Neil Claussen

April 26, 2011

To Whom it May Concern,

I believe that Dr. Ahmads purchase of the Marion Surgery Center would be a good idea for people that cannot travel to other areas for their eye surgery needs. I would not want to travel any farther than necessary from my home than I had to. I would also feel better if the people who were in charge of my eye care needs were actual Doctors.

Thank you

Janet Palmer

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Flora
1-618-662-3202

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
1-800-344-7058

McLeansboro
1-618-643-2650

Metropolis
1-800-344-7058

Mt. Vernon
1-618-244-2777

Murphysboro
1-618-565-1405

Nashville
1-618-327-3900

Pinckneyville
1-618-357-2020

Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vandalia
1-618-283-7100

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Faisel Ahmad, M.D. • Omar Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • Micah Brasel, O.D. • Dolly Campbell, O.D
William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D.
Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Rachel Shewmake, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D. • Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D.
Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

April 15, 2011

Dear Patients,

As you may already know, my plans to purchase the surgery center where we do surgery here in Marion, not the office, were thwarted when a local attorney, Ronald Osman, went around me and negotiated a deal to purchase the very same surgery center I was in the process of buying. However, given the importance of ensuring there is access to quality healthcare in the community, this change of ownership must be approved by a state board called the Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

I am opposing this change of ownership and invite you to do the same if you believe, as I do, that this change of ownership would impair access to healthcare in Marion, rather than improve it or even maintain it. In deciding whether or not to oppose this project, I feel it is important for you to understand why I oppose the sale of Marion Surgery Center to Mr. Osman.

I do not trust Ronald Osman. I have had prior business dealings with Mr. Osman. He was, infact, my attorney. Despite being my attorney, he filed a lawsuit against me using the same information which he provided to me as my attorney, which was thrown out, but not before Mr. Osman was removed from the case by the Judge. There is an ethical rule for lawyers that basically says: you don't file lawsuits against your own clients. Mr. Osman did. Mr. Osman also took steps to buy this surgery center out from under me. His reputation for putting the best interests of the community speaks for itself - but I will also add that I believe a doctor's practice should be controlled by doctors – not lawyers – and should be focused on the best care for the patients.

It is difficult for me to say this, but if this change of ownership is approved, I will not continue to provide services at this surgery center. I am committed to provide care to you, my patients, and want to continue to provide access to quality healthcare at the surgery center near your home and in your community. However, I do not trust Ronald Osman and I cannot operate in the surgery center where he is the owner and in charge.

If you agree that this Change of Ownership would harm access to healthcare in Marion more than it would benefit it, please join me in opposing this project. Your written comments, typed or handwritten, should be sent to our address in the enclosed return envelope.

Yours truly,

Dr. Maqbool Ahmad

Mr Ahmad is very efficient & provides an accessable service for the Elderly - I had Cataract Surgery & recommend him highly
Betty Hall 2140 Ipsdighe Apt 401
Chester, Ill - 62233

March 21, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to the SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center being sold. I believe that the Marion Eye Centers & Optical should be able to purchase this center. In August of last year myself, my father and younger sister all had Lasik eye surgery performed by Dr. Umana. We chose to have our surgery there because it was recommended to us by others who had the procedure done by Dr. Umana and because of its convenient location. My grandmother had also had retinal surgery performed by Dr. Umana and recommended him.

The staff was both friendly and courteous. In fact, I had a complication with one of my eyes and had to call Dr. Umana at his home at 10:00 PM the night of my surgery. He immediately told me to meet him at the office and he would exam my eye. While this was a 50 minute drive for us, had it been elsewhere, it would have been much longer. It is also probable that we would not have been able to contact the surgeon at home to ask about my eye. Once Dr. Umana examined my eye, he saw the problem and called in one of his assistants and corrected the problem that night. Never once did they make me feel that they were "put-out" by having to come in on a Friday night at 10:00 PM. We arrived home at midnight and were back the next morning for my follow-up appointment. As you can see, this would have been a much bigger ordeal had the surgery been elsewhere.

The surgery center also draws in revenue for the community. For each trip that we took to Marion, including the initial consultation, surgery and follow-ups, we either purchased fuel, meals, or went shopping.

Sincerely,

Meagan Short

Meagan Short
618-384-8221

To Whom It May Concern:

In regards to the sale of The Marion Surgical Center, we respectfully request it be sold to The Marion Eye Center rather than a non-medical entity such as an attorney.

Candace Juliana Campbell 4/4/11

Candace Campbell
304 South Graham
Carbondale, IL 62901

To Whom It May Concern:

In regards to the sale of The Marion Surgical Center, we respectfully request it be sold to The Marion Eye Center rather than a non-medical entity such as an attorney.

7/4/2011

Tiabi Hagg

11790 North Ranch Drive

Florrisant, MO 63033

To whom it may ccncern,

I have been informed that the Marion Eye Center is under negotiations with another company. I am opposed to the center being sold to a non-physician, non-health care entity. As a patient, I am opposed to this because of the lack of retina services that would be available. I am also opposed to it because it would cause loss of jobs in the area which is already been hit hard by the economy. Please consider this when making your decision.

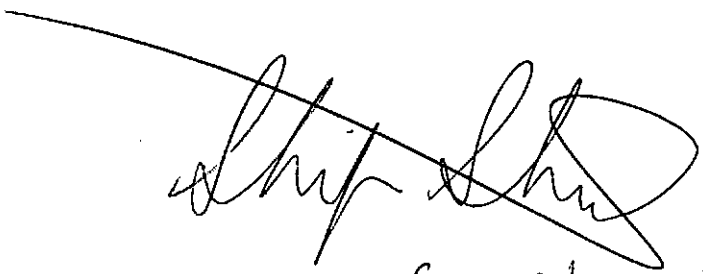
A Satisfied Patiens of Dr. Olk,

Lynn S. Mohr

March 20, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

In regards to the sale of The Marion Surgical Center, we respectfully request it be sold to The Marion Eye Center rather than a non-medical entity such as an attorney.



Sharifa Stewart
316 Lynda Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901

To Whom It May Concern:

In regards to the sale of The Marion Surgical Center, we respectfully request it be sold to The Marion Eye Center rather than a non-medical entity such as an attorney.

Yusuf Hagg 9/2/2011

Yusuf Hagg
11790 North Ranch Drive
Florrisant, MO 63033

To Whom It May Concern:

In regards to the sale of The Marion Surgical Center, we respectfully request it be sold to The Marion Eye Center rather than a non-medical entity such as an attorney.

Carol Campbell 4/4/11

304 South Graham

Carbondale, IL 62901

2117 Lindell
Murphysboro,ill 62966
March 13,2011

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are expressing our dismay over the possible sale of Marion Eye Centers in Carbondale to a corporation which is not emen in the health care industry. We use the Caarbondale facility,and oppose this sale.

1. This will involve a 23 mile trip to Marion for services. If surgery is needed, then there is a second trip needed the same day to pick one of us up after surgery.
2. We are suspicious of a non-health corp wanting to buy this business. As it is, health insurance companies aare cutting back and it looks like medicare will either shift more costs to patients or increase deductibles; Yet, this non-health corp sees this as a lucrative business? Surely, out of pocket expenses for patients willrise dramatically.
3. There are several other eye surgeons in Carbondale too,so we fail ato see any certificate of need.

Sincerely,
Bob and Kay Tyson

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to Dr. Ahmad's desire to acquire the Marion Surgery Center for use by his business. My connection with doctor Ahmad comes from being a realtor in Mt. Vernon. The doctor has done business with our agency in buying and selling business property. He has built a clinic on property we sold him. The clinic is a very attractive and busy facility that I would consider an asset for our city. I believe the city of Marion would be wise to sell their surgery center to Dr. Ahmad.

Sincerely,

Carl Miller, Realtor Crees Davidson Real Estate

231-7534

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that Dr. Ahmad is interested in purchasing the Marion Surgical Center. I feel that this would be a huge asset to our community.

Dr. Ahmad is a leader in his profession and has a very high standard for himself and his employees.

Thank you,

Ray M. Dahlen

618 - 316 - 4235

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in concern of the Marion Surgery Center. I believe Dr. Ahmad should be able to purchase the building to aide in the Marion Eye Center. It would be a huge inconvenience to have to travel outside of the area. Please take this into consideration when making your decision. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
Melanie Emery

NAME: Melanie Emery
ADDRESS: 808 W. Broadway
Johnston City, IL 62951
PHONE NUMBER: _____

March 9, 2011
Carbondale, Il 62901

Re: The former Surgical Center of So. Ill
Treas St
Marion, Il. 62959

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;

I am requesting the consideration be given to Dr. Maqbool Ahmad, owner of the Marion Eye & Optical Centers, Marion, Il. 62959 to be allowed to purchase the above listed property. He will utilize this building for the convenience of his patients and all other citizens of this area. He has the professional ability to continue the use as an Ambulatory Surgery Center as well as making it a Retinal Specialist Center. This center is needed for the many patients of all ages who require immediate retina surgery (STAT). If this facility was available it would save many traveled miles and someones EYE SITE for many patients.

It would be a shame to allow an attorney to purchase this for real estate property only as a reason to block Dr. Ahmad from purchasing it.

Your consideration would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Shirley Clark

Shirley Clark
Carbondale, Il. 62901

An employee and patient

From: Larry Watkins [landdwatkins@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 4:32 PM
To: Cheryl McCall; Tara K. Stubblefield
Subject: Requested letter

Dear Dr. Olk:

I have mailed the following letter to your office in Marion over my signature. I hope this will be of help. I look forward to seeing you on the 5th of April for my eye appointment.

Sincerely yours,

Larry
Larry W. Watkins

1601 Matthew Lane

Marion, Illinois 62959

14 March 2011

To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that the Marion Eye Center has made an offer to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. I am also aware that a non-physician non-healthcare entity has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need and that they are also trying to purchase the Surgery Center. I strongly oppose this certificate and sale due in part that it would inconvenience me and many other patients who live in the Marion area. We would be forced to travel outside the area to have our needed surgery done by the doctors we have come to know and trust with our sight. Many of us are retired and elderly and we have to rely on others for transportation. Additionally, many of us are on limited incomes and with the cost of fuel increasing almost daily and having to travel outside our area would be cost prohibitive. Also, our community would be affected negatively due to a loss of jobs and needed revenue, and most importantly, there would be lack of retina services locally on a daily basis.

I could go on and on about how much the Marion Eye Center and the associated physicians have done for me and so many others, but I think their reputations stand for themselves. Please take seriously the letter of intent that Dr. Ahmad has made to purchase the Marion Surgery Center so that the Marion Eye Center surgeons may perform surgery there locally. I for one will be most grateful.

Sincerely Yours,

_____

Larry W. Watkins

March 16, 2011

Josephine Conaughty
1414 E Clark St
West Frankfort, IL 62896

Marion Eye Center
1200 W De Young St
Marion IL 62959

To Whom It May Concern:

I have a condition known as Macular Degeneration. It is vital that I have access to my retina doctor. I have had to have several emergency procedures.
Dr Ahmad and Dr Olk have saved my eyesight, so it Is important to have a surgery center in our area, especially at my age.

I want my doctors making decisions about the surgery center,and am very much opposed to a lawyer making decisions about my medical facility.

Sincerely,

Josephine Conaughty

March 12, 2011

Noel R. Francis
7985 St. Rte 37 N
Goreville, IL 62939

To whom it may concern:

I understand that Dr. Ahmad has intent to purchase the Marion Surgery Center in Marion, IL, so surgeons could continue to do surgeries in this area, which they have done for the past 25 years. I don't understand why a non-physician non-healthcare entity is trying to undermine this purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. I think it is ridiculous to think that there is not a need for this service. I know for a fact that my past generations have used this facility for different eye surgeries and my husband and I have both used this facility, so there is certainly a great need for these services. Patients have traveled to the facility to have doctors operate on them because of their experience and integrity. There is a great need for retina services in the area and I personally have used for myself. Not only would there be a loss of jobs in the community but also a loss of revenue for the community.

I feel that it would be a real injustice not to let Dr. Ahmad purchase the Marion Surgery Center and a great loss for the community. Why would we want to let another building go to waste like some of the other buildings that are sitting around empty? We should let this building be put to good use by letting Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and Dr. Olk continue to do surgeries and other additional retina services in the Marion Surgery Center facility. Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity is not practical, we should think of the future of the surgery center, lets keep it as a surgery center and let Dr. Ahmad purchase it.

Sincerely,

Noel R Francis

Noel R. Francis

March 16, 2011

Carl O Conaughty
1414 E Clark St
West Frankfort, IL 62896

Marion Eye Center
1200 W De Young St
Marion IL 62959

To Whom It May Concern:

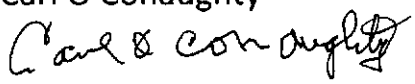
I have been a patient of Dr Ahmad for over 30 years. I am now 91 years old and Dr Ahmad performed my Cataract surgery. It would be a hardship to travel outside of our area for our basic eye surgery needs. We need this surgery center for the convenience of the patients he serves.

He has been a member of this community and has supported it for as many years.

I am very much opposed to a non medical person making decisions over the surgery center that I plan to use and I hope Dr Ahmad is allowed to purchase it.

Sincerely,

Carl O Conaughty



March 14, 2011

Pauline Gray
2104 East Main Street
West Frankfort, IL 62896

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support Dr. Maqbool Ahmad's intent to purchase the Marion Surgery Center, Marion, IL. In turn, I am very much opposed to the bid by a non-physician, non-healthcare entity intended to undermine Dr. Ahmad's purchase. I am requesting that the Illinois Health Planning Board not approve the application for a certificate of need by this non-physician, non-healthcare entity.

I am 90 years old and I have been a patient at Marion Eye Center in Marion, IL, for many years. I had my cataracts removed at Marion Surgery Center over 10 years ago, and I am currently seeing Dr. Olk, who is managing my macular degeneration with great success. I depend on the Marion Eye Center and the Marion Surgery Center to get the professional and specialized eye care I need locally. I am very concerned that I would need to make a 2 1/2-hour trip to St. Louis if I needed eye surgery by Dr. Olk or Dr. Ahmad, especially if I needed emergency surgery. My daughter, who is also a senior citizen, would need to drive me there and back, and that would be a hardship and inconvenience for both of us.

I trust the eye surgeons at Marion Eye Center and I want the peace of mind of knowing that they will be available to perform surgery, if I ever needed it, in Marion, which is just 12 miles from my home. I am also concerned about the future of Marion Eye Center if the Surgery Center is sold to anyone other than Dr. Ahmad. Again, I personally would be greatly inconvenienced if the Marion Eye Center were to close its doors, not to mention the damage done to the Southern Illinois region in regard to loss of jobs.

The people of Southern Illinois must continue to have local access to the advanced eye surgery and retina services now available at the Marion Surgery Center. We also deserve to have local access to Dr. Ahmad and the other reputable eye surgeons with the experience and integrity we trust. Again, I strongly support Dr. Ahmad's bid to purchase the Marion Surgery Center, and I strongly oppose the bid by the non-physician, non-healthcare entity.

Sincerely,

Pauline Gray

Pauline Gray

March 12, 2011

Frances Francis
7985 St. Rte 37 N
Goreville, IL 62939

To whom it may concern:

I understand that Dr. Ahmad has intent to purchase the Marion Surgery Center in Marion, IL, so surgeons could continue to do surgeries in this area, which they have done for the past 25 years. I don't understand why a non-physician non-healthcare entity is trying to undermine this purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. I think it is ridiculous to think that there is not a need for this service. I know for a fact that my past generations have used this facility for different eye surgeries and my husband and I have both used this facility, so there is certainly a great need for these services. Patients have traveled to the facility to have doctors operate on them because of their experience and integrity. There is a great need for retina services in the area and I personally have used for myself. Not only would there be a loss of jobs in the community but also a loss of revenue for the community.

I feel that it would be a real injustice not to let Dr. Ahmad purchase the Marion Surgery Center and a great loss for the community. Why would we want to let another building go to waste like some of the other buildings that are sitting around empty? We should let this building be put to good use by letting Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and Dr. Olk continue to do surgeries and other additional retina services in the Marion Surgery Center facility. Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity is not practical, we should think of the future of the surgery center, lets keep it as a surgery center and let Dr. Ahmad purchase it.

Sincerely,

Frances Francis

Frances Francis

Violet Grisham
1400 N. Garfield
Marion, IL 62959
618-997-6286

As a Senior Citizen it would be a Inconvenience For me to have to Travel out of Town for eye surgery. Sometimes Seniors don't have the health to travel that far out of Town. Especially Those that are hand-i-caped. I have Dr Umana as a doctor & would hate to have to change to another doctor because he didn't have a Surgery Center to operate in.

Sincerely
Violet Grisham
3-13-11

This is Kang, Kyung OK

I have done cataract surgery both eyes by Dr. Ahmed. at Marion Eye (surgery) Center.

I am here to request to leave these doctors Dr Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana because we including me need these doctors here other-wise, & I will have great difficulty finding & traveling long way to see or do further eye service. It will cause great inconvinience for my eye servie at my age 72. We all need them to be here thank

3/13/11.

I am opposed to the certificate of need for Lon Osmond to purchase the surgery center. I will be impositioned if I have to travel outside of the area to receive surgical care from my doctor at Marion eye centure.

NAME: Jodi DeJarnett

ADDRESS: 1205 Whisper Way
Benton, IL 62812

PHONE NUMBER: 618-435-4327

To whom it may concern,

I oppose the certificate of need submitted by Mr. Osmond to purchase the surgery center in Marion.

NAME: James N Boyd

ADDRESS: 10774 Illinois Excelsior
Johnston City IL 62951

PHONE NUMBER: 983 3431

3-22-11

To Whom it may Concern,

I'm very concern to learn about the Marion Surgery Center having a problem.

We need to keep it here - because of the Elderly people, I'm one of those people.

Some people like myself don't have a family to help us. How could we go out of town if we have no one.

Lets keep it here in Marion for all the people who will need it sooner or later.

Thank You
Geraldine

NAME: Geraldine Olivia

ADDRESS: 1112 S. Pemberton Dr
Marion IL 62959

PHONE NUMBER: 618-997-3994

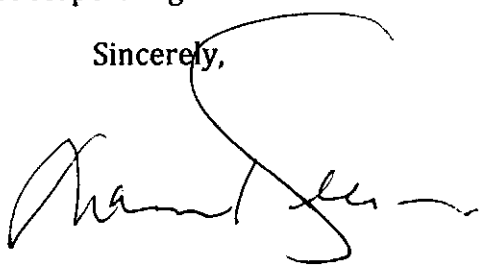
Marvin Kleinau
1022 Villa Court
Carbondale, Illinois

March 16, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam:

There are some things that make sense to me and some that don't. One that doesn't is the current attempt by a group to alter what is a perfect balance between facility and need. The Marion Eye Center has been operating out of the Marion Surgery Center for some time. It should be obvious there is a crying need for their services and that facility is very important to meeting that need. Yet someone, for reasons unknown, thinks it best to move them out of the Center and have them do their surgeries all over southern Illinois. I'm sorry, but that doesn't make any sense to me. This needs to be worked out for the good of people, not corporate greed.

Sincerely,



MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
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McLeansboro
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Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Staff

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Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • Oscar Corredor, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D.
Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Emily Smith, O.D.
Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

March 21,2011

To whom it may concern:

At Marion Eye Center we value our patient's care and needs. For years the patients at the Chester, Ill office have traveled to the Marion Surgery Center for all there eye surgeries needs. Marion Eye Center has a highly trained medical staff to address all our patients' needs.

We feel that is for our patients' best interest to continue having there eye care surgeries at the Marion Surgery Center in Marion Illinois. Our patients are used to this facility and it is not feasible for them to drive any further for there eye care needs.

Thank you for consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Julie Peace, Office Supervisor

Marion Eye Center
203 Van Zant
Chester, Il 62233

March 21, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a practicing optometrist for Marion Eye Center. I co-manage surgical patients for both non-emergent and emergent conditions. It is very convenient and time-efficient for the patients to go to the Marion Surgery Center for their care. If my patients are unable to have their surgical needs met at the Marion Surgery Center, it would force them to have to travel outside of their area, which in some emergencies, time doesn't allow.

Please support Dr. Ahmad and all of the patients of Marion Eye Centers and Optical. There is no doubt that he and the company will provide the utmost care and community gain.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hager

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Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
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Charleston
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Doxter
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Poplar Bluff
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Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

3-21-11

To whom it may Concern

I am writing in support of Marion Eye Center purchasing the Marion Surgery Center.

It is truly inconvenient it is necessary to travel to Mt Vernon for surgery. They have numerous employees there and these jobs could be in Marion. As everybody knows, health care is not cheap.

Seems as the surgery center is already set up for medical procedures it would be a real plus.

NAME: Virginia Mowery

ADDRESS: 109 Westbrook

Carterville IL 62918

PHONE NUMBER: 618 985 6398

03/23/2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been an employee of Marion Eye Center for 4 years. I am the proud supervisor of the Pinckneyville location for 3 years. It is my understanding that the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois is up for sale and that there is a conflict of interest on purchasing the facility.

I believe that the facility would be better suited for Dr. Ahmad to own, not only for the patients benefit, but the community as well. Dr Ahmad and his staff can offer much more that just cataract surgery, our company can also provide very good retina care. With many of our retinal specialists located in larger cities such as St. Louis, it would be a great relief to many patients to not have to travel as far to see them. With more patients coming to Marion for their total eye care needs that would mean more revenue for the city.

In my opinion the better choice for the ownership of the facility would be for Dr. Ahmad and Marion Eye Center.

Thank you,

Kim Brandon

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

GENTLEMEN,

WE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO DO EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO ALLOW DR. AHMAD AND ANYONE HE MAY PARTNER WITH TO PURCHASE THE MARION EYE SURGERY CENTER. WE ~~DO NOT~~ BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF CARE NEEDED IN THIS AREA. WE ARE AGAINST THE SALE TO AN OUTSIDE ENTITY THAT COULD JEOPARDIZE THE HIGH LEVEL OF CARE AND SERVICE MAINTAINED AT THE CENTERS. IF THE SALE IS ALLOWED TO GO TO A NON-HEALTH CARE COMPANY WE FEEL THAT NOT ONLY WILL NEEDED JOBS LEAVE THE COMMUNITY BUT CARE FOR OUR FELLOW CITIZENS WILL BE LOST ON A LOCAL LEVEL.

NAME: Kenneth McNeil

ADDRESS: 1901 ORGAN ST. APT 102
Eldorado Ill

PHONE NUMBER: 618 8410087

Monday, March 21, 2011
8:27 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to you, to voice my opposition to the sale of the Marion Surgery Center to a non-medical person. People like my husband and I can't go to St. Louis or Springfield to get eye surgery. We are both retired and our only income is social Security. We are also raising our 13 year old daughter and sending her to school , so our income is strictly limited. We need a surgery center here where we, and people like us,can get the help we need from the wonderful doctors at the Marion Eye Center.

Personally have had both eyes done, for cataracts by Dr. Ahmad, my husband has Glaucoma and is being treated by Dr. Ortiz. He is also facing the same kind of surgery. If the surgery center closed we will not be able to get his eyes fixed. Please, keep this center here in Marion where it is badly needed.

Please consider that there is another generation coming up that will need the skill and medical knowledge that these fine doctors provide on a daily basis. We don't want our medical decisions made by anyone outside the health-care field[redacted].

Sincerely
Doris Wade
Walter D. Wade

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

To Whom this may concern, 3-18-2011

I am writing this letter to support the doctors of the Marion Eye Centers and the purchase of the center. It is my hope the certificate and purchase of this facility is NOT granted to the non-physician non-healthcare entity.

The Marion Eye Centers & Optical facility provides convenient optical healthcare for us as senior citizens. It also provides a local facility for us all. Traveling out of town for same day surgeries and/or follow-up appointments would create hardship on families. Travel is well over 100 miles to and from the Mt. Vernon facility. Many patients travel from Goreville, Herrin, Carterville, just to name a few outlying towns. I choose Marion Eye Centers for the experience and integrity of the physicians that practice there. Also, I believe the demand is high for retina services, again we'd have to travel out of town for this procedure. The community would suffer job loss and revenue. The physicians also see medicaid patients. This too is a blessing as it is very difficult to find a physician that will accept medicaid patients

The physicians we have depended on for over 20 years may become out of reach for us. I ask the the physicians of Marion Eye Centers & Optical remain in this facility

Thank you for your time

Sincerely Leroy O'Steen

NAME: Leroy O'Steen USN (ret)

ADDRESS: 285 John Able Dr
Goreville IL 62939

PHONE NUMBER: 618-995-2796

23 March 2011

12255 Binkley Road
Marion, Illinois 62930

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter due to my concern that an attorney from Marion, Illinois would try to block Marion Eye Center from purchasing available shares in the Marion Surgery Center. Marion Eye Center has been serving southern Illinois for over 30 years. It is wonderful to have top quality surgical eye care close to home. However, this attorney is trying to stop that for reasons unknown to me. The Marion Eye Center doctors and staff have always provided the highest quality care for the citizens of our communities. This purchase of the Marion Surgery Center is proof of the dedication that Marion Eye Center has to southern Illinois to provide their patients with the top quality retinal care. Please do not let an attorney purchase this facility, which has already been set up as a surgical facility.

Sincerely,

Debra A. Dallape

23 March 2011
1504 Marshall St.
Eldorado, Il. 62930

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter due to my concern that an attorney from Marion, Illinois would try to block Marion Eye Center from purchasing available shares in the Marion Surgery Center. Marion Eye Center has been serving southern Illinois for over 30 years. It is wonderful to have top quality surgical eye care close to home. However, this attorney is trying to stop that for reasons unknown to me. The Marion Eye Center doctors and staff have always provided the highest quality care for the citizens of our communities. This purchase of the Marion Surgery Center is proof of the dedication that Marion Eye Center has to southern Illinois to provide their patients with the top quality retinal care. Please do not let an attorney purchase this facility, which has already been set up as a surgical facility.

Sincerely,

Marilyn S. Barger

Marilyn S. Barger

April 1, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I believe that the Marion Surgical Center should be purchased by Dr. Ahmad. He is a very well-known and respected Doctor and I feel it would be a very large asset to our area.

I know many people who have been treated by Dr. Ahmad and they each have praised him very highly. I also know other Doctors, personally, who work for Dr. Ahmad, and they have the utmost respect for him and his work as well as his work ethics.

In my opinion, Dr. Ahmad is the best candidate for ownership of the Surgical Center in Marion, Illinois.

Sincerely,

Christina Duncan

Christina Duncan

618-266-7814

To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing in regards to Dr. Ahmad's desire to purchase the Marion Surgical Center located in Marion, IL. As a Broker Associate real estate agent in Mt. Vernon, IL, I can attest to Dr. Ahmad's commitment to the people of the Mt. Vernon by the state-of-the-art facility he has had constructed to provide great eye care for this area.

I feel the city of Marion would be fortunate to allow Dr. Ahmad to purchase the Marion Eye Surgical Center.

Sincerely,

Connie J. Lee
618-231-3901
Broker Associate
Cross Davidson Real Estate

March 23, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

When I received a letter stating that we may lose some of the benefits of having a eye surgical center in our area, I was disturbed. It has been wonderful having such a center close to home. Many of us who need these procedures are elderly and unable to travel even to St. Louis or Cape Girardeau. I have been a patient of Marion Eye Center for many years and have had several surgeries there. Their staff is so pleasant to talk to and I always feel confident when a procedure needs to be done.

I hope that the needs of the patients are taken into consideration before those in opposition are allowed to take this center away from our area.

Sincerely,

Joan Miffin
Murphysboro, Il. 62966

BURLEY - SHAY INVESTMENTS, LTD.

401 N. Beadle Drive P.O. Box 159 Carbondale, IL 62903 (618) 529-5161
Fax (618) 549-6952

Marion Eye Center_2011

Illinois Health Planning Board
Springfield, IL

RE: Illinois Health Planning Board – Certificate of Need – Marion Surgery Center

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

I have been associated with Marion Eye Center & Optical from its founding. My understanding of the simple business plan this company was founded upon was and is "Provide Southern Illinois and the surrounding area with the best eye care available through a staff of highly professional physicians and staff".

Marion Eye Center has capitalized upon this simple plan by recruiting the best professionals in the field of eye care, providing community based facilities staffed with local caring employees, and centralizing specialized procedures to insure the safety of their patients.

Any attempt to move the medical procedures and administration of these services away from the physician and the trained staff that provide them and to put them in the hands of non-medically related individuals or entities, appears to be counter productive. Experience says that to recruit and retain these highly professional individuals is doubly tough in Southern Illinois. To then, throw additional roadblocks up to complicate the practice of eye care, simply means Southern Illinois looses again.

I would suggest that the best avenue is to let the leadership that has proven successful, for over a decade, in providing the highest degree of care and services to the citizens of Southern Illinois in control. This allows for the continuity of services, safety of patients, and stability for the staff.

Yours truly,

Donald W. Shay

March 22,2011

135 Kane Road

Eldorado, Illinois 62930

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter due to my concern that an attorney From Marion, Illinois would try to keep the Marion Eye Center From purchasing the available shares in the Marion Surgery Center. I am a patient, that today, have to have emergency retinal Surgery. I could have gone across the street if we had a Retinal center in Southern Illinois. The Marion Eye Center Doctors provide the highest quality care for the citizens of Our community and have qualified specialist available. Why Not have the most up to date facility available too. Marion Eye Center has been committed to quality service for many years and This purchase would just reinforce the commitment for all of Southern Illinois.

Betty Smith

Betty Smith

I feel this facility should remain as is since it would be very inconvenient for patients to have to travel outside of this area or possibly to other areas.

NAME: Gladys Wright

ADDRESS: 13430 Lawrence Rd

West Frankfort, IL 62896

PHONE NUMBER: 618-937-3081

CONSTANCE PETERS

2 Shawnee Circle
West Frankfort, IL 62896
618-218-5860
March 24, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to state that I have a great deal of respect for Dr Ahmad. He and the other doctors have integrity as well as years of experience. I have been employed by Dr Ahmad for over 3 years and have seen the care and compassion he shows his patients. Their wellbeing is uppermost in his treatment.

I have made emergency arrangements for transportation to St Louis for his patients. Dr Ahmad has graciously furnished the van as well as the driver for the benefit of the patient.

We have a great need in Southern Illinois for a Surgery Center and the Retina specialist that he is willing to provide. I can see his vision, a plan to make Southern Illinois, Williamson County in particular, a medical arts center for eye care.

We have the BEST, let's keep them! Please support Dr Ahmad in his effort to purchase this surgery center and provide more jobs and revenue for MARION.

Sincerely,

Connie Peters

Connie Peters

03-24-11

ANGELA KIBODEAUX

18190 CAPLINGER POND RD.

MARION, IL. 62959

To whom it may concern,

I have been an employee of Marion Eye Centers for a little over a year now and I love my job and what I do. I strongly believe the Marion Surgery Center needs to be purchased by Dr. Ahmad. By Dr. Ahmad/Marion Eye Centers purchasing this building it would make it easy for patient access, such as patients that have bad health and aren't able to travel and those that can't afford to travel with the high gas prices. It would bring more jobs to the community and give myself and fellow employee's job security.

Dr. Ahmad has been practicing for over twenty five years. With the demand of more facility space needed and more surgeons coming aboard we are in need of the Marion Surgery Center. We have retinal specialist on board which makes it convenient for patients where they don't have to travel to the St. Louis area to see a specialist.

I am not sure why a non-physician would be purchasing a surgery center. The building would probably just sit around and be empty and vandalized if not purchased from Dr. Ahmad, who already has a purpose for the use of this facility. I would like to think you would make the right decision in this hearing and award not only Dr. Ahmad this facility but the community great healthcare and employment opportunity.

Sincerely,

Angela Kibodeaux

Angela Kibodeaux

LARRY PETERS

2 Shawnee Circle
West Frankfort, IL 62896
618-218-5860
March 24, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Dr Ahmad has been an important part of this community for almost thirty years. He has provided job security for more than 250 employees.

The opportunity to grow in this economic turmoil is a tribute to his commitment to our community. His integrity and experience make him a leader and the most capable person to head the Southern Illinois Surgery Center.

There is a great need for Retina services in this area and as he already has the staff, it is logical that he be allowed to purchase the surgery center. The surgery center is an important component to the future growth of Williamson County.

Sincerely,

Larry Peters

March 17, 2011

TO: Illinois Health Planning Board
Marion City Council

Subject: Certificate of Need – Marion Eye Center

Marion Eye Center has provided the residents of Southern Illinois outstanding optical services for more than 25 years. Their continued growth and service to our area is to be commended.

Your favorable consideration is requested to allow Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Olk and Dr. Umana a certificate to perform surgery in Marion. It is imperative that their patients and other residents of Southern Illinois may have the privilege of having eye surgery performed in our area by our selected professionals rather than having to drive out of the area for advanced surgical procedures.

My family has been patients of the Marion for many years and is excited about the opportunity they have to continue expanding their presence in Southern Illinois. As Senior Citizens we need to have the latest and best trained local eye professionals and staff to continue their outstanding service to us and their other patients.

David & Marilyn Bouhl
182 Tecumseh Drive
Carbondale, Illinois 62901
618-924-4111

Liberty Village

Apt 111

`Carbondale, Il62901

To Whom It May Concern:

I have just learned that a non-health group has made an effort to undermine the efforts of the Marion Eye Center to purchase what has been their surgical center for a number of years. This just doesn't make any sense to a 92 year old lady who has come to depend on the ability of the Marion Eye Center to be there for her. I think it foolish to force out a very fine medical facility to an unknown future. Stupid may be a better word.

Very truly yours

Ruth Duncan

Ruth Duncan
2950 Westridge Pl Apt 111
Carbondale, IL 62901-1088

March 14, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board,

I have been a patient of Dr. Umana and Marion Eye Centers for over 20 years and have had two eye surgeries. As soon as I receive results from current cancer studies I will be undergoing another surgery. I am 83 years old and depend on my daughter who is disabled to drive me . It would be very difficult for us to have to drive any further. As it is we are driving 30 miles to the Marion Office. I know many people who use Marion Eye Center. Please do not take this source of medical care away from the people of Southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Lela Anthony

Rose M. Carlton

P.O. Box I

Jonesboro, IL 62952

March 15, 2011

To whom it may concern:

I have been a patient of the Marion Eye Center for along time now, and have come to appreciate the Marion Surgery Center as well. It has come to my attention that the Surgery Center has become for sale, and there are two parties interested in its purchase. I would hate to see the Surgery Center ran by a non-physician non-healthcare entity, which in my opinion makes no sense at all. Would you want your child's healthcare being navigated by a bricklayer? I most definitely would NOT!

Coming from a person with mental disabilities I can appreciate good quality healthcare from qualified healthcare providers. The doctors that operate thru and under MEC are very familiar with my condition and always go the extra mile to accommodate me at all my appointments at every level of care I've needed through MEC.

Being from Southern Illinois you must realize the importance of quality eye care that is provided by Marion Surgery Center. You must also understand the inconvenience it would be if I had to travel elsewhere to get the eye care needed. It would be a must because of the trust and bond that has been formed thru the years of doctor patient interactions. What would happen if this non-healthcare entity would gain this center: there would be no guarantee it would even remain open which would jeopardize lots of jobs (much needed jobs) for a lot of Southern Illinoisans'. Not to mention income and revenue provided by those jobs.

In closing I want it stated that I firmly oppose the Illinois Health Planning Board approving a certificate of need to the non-physician non-healthcare entity.

Rose Carlton

ROSE CARLTON

Southern Illinois

Larry W. Watkins

1601 Matthew Lane

Marion, Illinois 62959

14 March 2011

To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that the Marion Eye Center has made an offer to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. I am also aware that a non-physician non-healthcare entity has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need and that they are also trying to purchase the Surgery Center. I strongly oppose this certificate and sale due in part that it would inconvenience me and many other patients who live in the Marion area. We would be forced to travel outside the area to have our needed surgery done by the doctors we have come to know and trust with our sight. Many of us are retired and elderly and we have to rely on others for transportation. Additionally, many of us are on limited incomes and with the cost of fuel increasing almost daily and having to travel outside our area would be cost prohibitive. Also, our community would be affected negatively due to a loss of jobs and needed revenue, and most importantly, there would be lack of retina services locally on a daily basis.

I could go on and on about how much the Marion Eye Center and the associated physicians have done for me and so many others, but I think their reputations stand for themselves. Please take seriously the letter of intent that Dr. Ahmad has made to purchase the Marion Surgery Center so that the Marion Eye Center surgeons may perform surgery there locally. I for one will be most grateful.

Sincerely Yours,

Larry W. Watkins

Larry W. Watkins

Larry Watkins
1601 Matthew Ln
Marion, IL 62959

To whom it may concern:

We are writing this in support of the doctors of the Marion Eye Center in the purchase of Marion Surgery Center in Marion, Illinois.

Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz and Dr. Umana have been seeing patients and performing surgery in Marion for more than twenty-five years and we have been patients of theirs for most of this time. They are doctors of great experience, very much admired by their patients and are men of intergrity and their service is very evident in the successful vison of their patients.

The patients of the Marion Eye Center should not need to travel outside the area for surgery. The Marion Eye Center retina services are needed each day. We would not be interested in going to a non-health care facility.

We ask that the Illinois Health Planning Board see that the need is being and will be met by these doctors and no other should be considered.

Yours very truly.

Cecil W. Daily

Marilyn K. Daily

811 North Washington Street
Du Quoin, Illinois 62832-1227
618 790-4958

March 17, 2011

Marion Eye Center
P.O. Box 1178
Marion, IL 62959-9938

I have been a patient of Dr. Umana for many years. It is my understanding that there is a possibility that the Marion Surgery Center may be sold to a non-physician non-healthcare entity which would force the Marion Eye Center eye surgeons out of the Marion area.

I wanted to let you know that will cause a real hardship on the seniors to travel outside the area to see the surgeons. The lack of retina services will create a major problems for seniors and their caregivers in the area.

Sincerely,
William Vernon

William H. Vernon
RR 1, Box 114
Elizabethtown, IL 62931

March 17, 2011

TO: ILLINOIS HEALTH PLANNING BOARD

SUBJECT: Change of Ownership Application, Marion Surgery Center

Board Members:

I would like to voice my opposition to the chance of ownership of Marion Holding, LLC to Cirurgia Centro, LLC for the following reasons:

The surgeons of Marion Eye Center would be forced to perform out of area surgery.

The sale would result in a lack of retina services in the Marion area.

Decision making would be done by non health care ownership.

The sale may cause a possible loss of employment and revenue for the local community.

This sale is bad for the local community especially in the decreasing of needed medical services.

Sincerely,

Anthony Zaccagnini

Anthony Zaccagnini
510 David Livingstone Dr
Carterville, IL 62918

776 Lakecrest Drive
Creal Springs, IL
March 15, 2011

Marion Eye Centers & Optical
P.O. Box 1178
Marion, Illinois 62959-9938

I am only too happy to address the importance of keeping the surgeons of Marion Eye Center in our area. It would be unfortunate if the people living in this area had to travel to outlying areas to see their doctor. The distances we have to travel in Southern Illinois to get specialized health care represent not only an inconvenience to people in this area but also an impediment to a growing Marion.

Great strides have been made in Marion in recent years. We have a baseball diamond and a team that draws locals and fills the stands. All kinds of restaurants have sprung up throughout the city. A super Walmart is within the grasp of local residents. The city's streets have been widened for a future that is already here. Given all these progressive moves, it seems to me absurd to deprive residents of a type of health care which they need and to which they have become accustomed.

Finally with inflation growing in leaps and bounds in food and energy, some patients will not even be able afford the travel to doctors that have been taking care of them for years. I therefore plead to decision makers to keep our eye surgeons in Marion where they belong.

Sincerely
Philip T. West

16 March 11

City Council
Marion, Illinois

Dear City Council Members:

I have been a satisfied patient of Marion Eye Centers for more than five years, ever since I developed a large macular hole in my right eye.

Two different doctor specialists have taken care of me, and I consider them to be a blessing to me and, frankly, a blessing to southern Illinois.

I am totally supportive of their efforts to take over the Marion Surgery Center. The doctors have been providing excellent vision care to this point, and the surgery center will enable them to expand their services.

I urge you to approve their application.

Sincerely,

Dennis T. Lowry

Dennis T. Lowry
377 Poplar Ridge Rd.
Murphysboro, IL 62901

To whom it may concern:

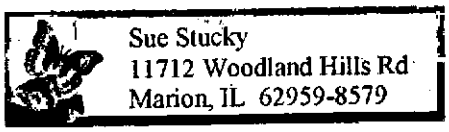
I am writing to express concern that the Marion Eye Center and its Surgeons will be forced to perform surgeries outside of the Marion area.

My husband age 69, and I age 68, are patients of the Marion Eye Center and have had the need for several surgeries by the center. We strongly oppose allowing another party to displace the Eye Center and force us to travel elsewhere for our health care.

Please do not allow that to happen.

Sue Stucky

Sue Stucky
11712 Woodland Hills Rd
Marion, IL 62959



1590 Dutchman Lake Road
Vienna, IL 62995
March 16, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board:

My family would like to go on record in opposition to the purchase of the Marion Surgery center by the entity that has applied for a certificate of need. We would like to see Dr. Ahmad purchase the building so that surgeries by the talented staff of Marion Eye Center can be performed at the Marion facility. Dr. Ahmad has done several surgeries on my family members and several friends and I have had lasik surgery performed by Dr. Umana. It is very inconvenient to have to travel outside the area for surgery and the necessity for a driver compounds the problem. Marion is centrally located for patients in southern Illinois and is very accessible to the interstate. My husband will soon be undergoing cataract surgery and I would much prefer to have that surgery conducted at the Marion facility.

Please consider the impact to residents of southern Illinois before you issue a certificate of need to a non-physician non-healthcare entity. The Marion area will lose jobs and revenue generated by patients receiving eye surgery at Marion. There is great need for retina services in this immediate area--many patients have to go to St. Louis for consultations.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Margaret Mathis

Margaret Mathis

Margaret Mathis
1590 Dutchman Lk Rd
Vienna, Il 62995

March 12, 2011

L. Keith and Mary Ann Murry
11287 Woodland Hills Rd.
Marion, IL 62959

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I are wishing that the sale of the Marion Surgery Center not be sold to anyone other than Dr. Ahmad. We both have had surgery in Marion, and I will need additional surgery for cataracts in the future. My husband would have lost his eye two years ago if not for the quick response of Dr. Umana. We're afraid that if the Center is sold to someone else, we may lose our good physicians as well for our checkups. Personally, we find it a great inconvenience, especially since I have cancer and have to travel to St. Louis once or twice a month now for those services. With gas prices as they've been, it's getting more and more of a problem. My husband needs the services of a retina surgeon to monitor his eyes in this area.

Naturally the loss of jobs in our community would be a great disadvantage, as well.

Thank you for any help that you can provide for us.

L. Keith and Mary Ann Murry

L. Keith & Mary Ann Murry

Mr. & Mrs. Keith & Mary Ann Murry
11287 Woodland Hills Rd.
Marion, IL 62959

03/31/2011

To Whom it May Concern:

I believe that Dr Ahmad would greatly benefit on being the soul owner of the surgery center for southern Illinois area. It will be a convenience to our patients in the surrounding area, jobs provided for people in the area and revenue gain for the community. I feel that Dr Ahmad has a heart for his patients and needs this building more than any other person. I would appreciate that you consider my thoughts for this situation.

Sincerely

Cassandra L Waddell

Cassandra L. Waddell

To Whom it Concerns

Our surgical Center is wonderful
Please leave them alone
They are doing a good job

NAME: Wanda Campbell
ADDRESS: 1061 Bessie Rd
Benton, Ill. 62812
PHONE NUMBER: 438-3000

Dan Whitfield, (Rev.)
3389 N. McGeesville Road
Carbondale (Williamson County)
Illinois, 62902

March 20, 2011

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is in support of the Marion Eye Center as it seeks to purchase the Southern Illinois Surgery Center. I have been a patient of Dr. Maqbool Ahmad since before he opened the Marion Eye Center & Optical. My wife, (Yvonne Whitfield, RN, BSN) worked with him when he was practicing at St. Joseph Hospital in Murphysboro. We both have the highest regard for him both professionally and personally. His integrity and ethics are above reproach.

When pastoring in Marion, I had the occasion to request his services on behalf of a poverty stricken woman in my congregation. He was both willing and prompt in tending to her need in a completely professional and adequate manner.

The Marion Eye Center has served the community of Marion as well as surrounding communities for many years. It has been an integral part of the business community and the medical profession in particular. I strongly support the Marion Eye Center and oppose (in fact, resent) the efforts to thwart the efforts to acquire the Southern Illinois Surgery Center.

Sincerely,

Dan Whitfield

Dan Whitfield, (Rev.)

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
1-800-344-7058

McLeansboro
1-618-643-2650

Metropolis
1-800-344-7058

Mt. Vernon
1-618-244-2777

Murphysboro
1-618-565-1405

Nashville
1-618-327-3900

Pinckneyville
1-618-357-2020

Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D
Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. • Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D.
Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

MARIA CERRATO

1200 E GRAND ST. APT18-4A

CARBONDALE, IL 62901

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

March 26,2011

Surgery Center Comments

Trying to understand the present situation with regard to the proposed ownership of the existing surgery center is difficult. After many years of successful surgery service in Marion, it boggles the mind that a third party is attempting to bulldoze a Certificate of Need Exemption through. This is despite the fact that the third party is not in the business of providing medical services. It would appear this is an attempt by an outsider to financially benefit at the expense of all Marion Eye Center patients who have been more than adequately served for many years There is no way that this Certificate should be issued. Period!

Norman J Wilkaitis
PO Box 93
Energy, IL 62933-0093
618-942-7177

I am writing in support of Dr. Ahmad. This surgery center has been very good to me. The surgeons and staff are beyond great. I travel 20+ miles for these services, because they are so good. Dr. Ahmad has done three surgery's for me thus far. I wouldn't dream of going anywhere else. I need Dr. Ahmad and his staff to continue there good work and most importantly to remain in the building where they presently reside, I need those services as well the community needs these services, I am asking the city of Marion to work with Dr. Ahmad and staff to keep this great service going in its present facility

Thank You

Ms. L Pelmore

P.S. Happy patient

Donna R West
240 Hickory Corner Lane
Cypress, IL 62923-2140

March 29, 2011

RE: Southern Illinois Surgery in Marion, IL

To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose the sale of this center to any entity that would ultimately result in the removal of Marion Eye Center surgeons from practicing or performing surgery in the referenced facility. Because the Marion Eye Center has been located in Marion for approximately 30 years, it brings much revenue to this city and surrounding communities. Numerous businesses benefit from the very fact that so many people come to the eye center and surgery site for treatment.

I am a nurse employed at a Southern Illinois penal institution. I have personally received surgery at the referenced facility in late 2007 and would deem it extremely inconvenient to have to travel outside the area for eye surgery in the future. I also have been diagnosed with a retinal detachment in 2008 and surgery was performed to reattach the retina. I receive continuing monitoring of this condition. If surgery became necessary once again, I would hope that the surgery center is available.

My Mother and Step-Father, who are both deceased now, made many visits to the Marion Eye Center for check-ups resulting in the need for glasses and to the surgery facility for cataract removal. They were satisfied customers.

For established customers of the Marion Eye Center to lose the ability to have their surgery done at the referenced surgery center would place extreme hardship on many, especially those who are elderly. Emergency surgeries for some would be very problomatic, due to the fact that surgery might need to be performed immediately. Where would it be performed if not in a place where they feel comfortable.

Add to these concerns the fact that many would lose their jobs, forcing them into unemployment for an unknown amount of time; or, even to the point of having to relocate to provide for themselves and their families. Yes, the eye center would lose business were this purchase to take place. The greater harm, however, would be to loyal customers who could potentially prolong scheduling appointments for treatment, and to other businesses that benefit from the revenue brought to Marion by the Marion Eye Center and the Southern Illinois Surgery Center. These other businesses would surely see decline in sales or less use of the services they provide.

It is troublesome for me to realize that any entity not involved in healthcare would be undermining this purchase by the Marion Eye Center. A non-healthcare entity does not have the same goals in mind for those who have come to depend on the services and staff of the Marion Eye Center and the Southern Illinois Surgery Center.

I urge the Illinois Health Planning Board NOT to to consider the sale of Southern Illinois Surgery Center of Marion to a non-healthcare enterprise. Please DO allow Marion Eye Center to continue in the process of purchasing the Southern Illinois Surgery Center.

Sincerely,

Donna West, LPN

Donna West, LPN

March 29, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board

Sirs it has recently come to my attention that a non-physician non-healthcare entity has applied to purchase the Marion Surgery Center currently being utilized by the Marion Eye Care Center.

I am opposed to your granting this entity a certificate of need for the following reasons: Should the doctors of the Marion Eye Clinic be denied use of the surgery center most of us who rely on Marion Eye Center would be forced to go else ware for our eye care needs. I am currently traveling from Anna Illinois to Marion for my treatments and should the Marion Eye care Center loose the surgery center I would be forced to go out of state for this service.

Not only would I be in convinced but the revenue of Williamson County could also be negativity impacted.

I urge you to consider your discussion carefully and hope you will allow the Marion Surgery Center to be sold to a physician – health care entity.

Thank you for taking my opinion under consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Sherwin

Susan Sherwin
120 Fox Haven Lane
Anna Illinois 62906

MARCH 28, 2011

THE NEED FOR THE EYE SURGERY CENTER IS VITALLY NEEDED IN MARION . DR.AHMAD MUST BE ALLOWED TO PURCHASE IT.

THE MARION EYE CENTER MUST HAVE THIS SURGERY CENTER

TO CONTINUE THEIR EXCELLENT MEDICAL EYE SERVICES TO US .

WILLIAM AND ROSEMARY RAINEY

6270 TIPPY LANE

MARION, IL 62959

William T. Rainey

Rosemary J. Rainey

To Whom it concerns

Since my wife & I have both had cataract surgery at this facility I can assure you it is very much in need in this area.

Go sit in the waiting room for 4 hrs & you will see for yourself. how busy it is & how many are employed there.

Thank You
Gary

NAME: GARY ROMINES
ADDRESS: 15465 CHERRY ST.
CARTERVILLE, IL.
PHONE NUMBER: 618-987-2132

Reba Spinks
1420 W. Cherry
Herrin, Illinois 62948
(618) 988-8804

To Whom It May Concern:

On January 14, 2009 and February 4, 2009 I had eye surgery on both eyes at Marion Surgery Center. I am also a diabetic and have appointments 4 to 5 times a year. Recently, my husband had to travel to St. Louis Retina Center. He had cancer eye surgery and was hospitalized for 8 days. He has more appointments in the near future. My daughter in law had to take off work the week he was in St. Louis.

I am sending this letter in response to keep the Marion Surgery Center open. It has helped me and my family because the surgeries that can be performed here would otherwise be done in St. Louis.

Thank You,

Reba Spinks

Betty Loyd
215 Hensley Hills
Vienna, IL 62995
(618)927-0748

March 31, 2011

Marion Eye Centers
P.O. Box 1178
Marion, IL 62959

Re: Support of Marion Surgery Center

Please consider this letter as full support of Marion Surgery Center as it currently operates. Also, consider this letter as full opposition for a non-physician, non-healthcare entity receiving approval from Illinois Health Planning Board a certificate of need . Beyond question, I believe that although my eyesight is not perfect, had it not been for Marion Surgery Center, I would be totally blind today. When you know something has changed your quality of life, you find it very easy to be vocal with support and opposed to change.

Marion Surgery Center has provided premier service to Southern Illinois for more than 25 years. Many residents have been able to receive quality care without traveling long distances to larger populated areas. The loss of jobs by qualified employees and loss of revenues to the community are economically devastating in the current climate. If the Marion Surgery Center is not operated by physicians with an economic interest in its success, the quality of service and care will likely go into a downward spiral jeopardizing the future of the business.

Dr. Ahmad and the other doctors have been pioneers in Marion's remarkable business growth by opening and operating the Marion Surgery Center. They have a proven track record in the community. It appears, once again, Dr. Ahmad wants to raise the bar by offering much needed retina services. Please consider this another opportunity to give continued and increased success to Marion, IL and Marion Surgery Center.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Betty Loyd

To Whom it may Concern,

It is my earnest request that all is done to ensure that the Marion Eye Center located in Marion, IL keeps it location.

It would be a great inconvenience for patients to have to travel out of the area. Furthermore it would cause lost of jobs and revenue for our community. Please do all that is necessary to keep the Marion Eye Ctr located in Marion, IL in it's current location.

Sincerely

Thelma Okafor

NAME: Thelma Okafor

ADDRESS: 1010 N. Almond
Carbondale, IL 62901

PHONE NUMBER: _____

Darrell Lee Walters
313 North Jefferson St.
West Frankfort, IL 62896

March 29, 2011

MARION EYE CENTERS
P. O. BOX 1178
Marion, IL 62959-9938

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing in regard to the desire of Dr. Ahmad and associates to purchase the SURGERY CENTER OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

It would be very inconvenient for me and whomever I get to drive me to have to go out of the area for surgeries. I am a widow with no family near. I have a daughter in California and my son lives in Nashville, TN. My siblings, nieces and nephews, etc. live in Ohio so I have to depend on friends that live here for transportation at those times I need surgery or have my eyes dilated. In case you are wondering how I ended up here, I moved to Southern Illinois with my husband in '99 to care for his aging parents to keep them out of a nursing home which we were able to do.

Of even greater concern to me would be to loose the care of doctors in whom I have much confidence. It is no small thing to loose the retina services vitally needed in this area on a daily basis.

I am also concerned that the ownership and decision making of the surgical center would be made by a non-healthcare entity I understand a non-physician non-healthcare person wants to purchase the property for the land. How do we know that they will keep it as a surgical center?

I cannot be present to show support of Dr. Ahmad because of a previously made appointment but be assured that is not an indication of lack of concern for this matter.

Sincerely,

Darrell Lee Walters

Darrell Lee Walters (Mrs.)

RONALD C. BANFIELD
14726 Followell Drive
Marion, Illinois 62959

March 29, 2011

To Whom it may Concern:

It is my understanding that our Marion Eye Surgery Center may be forced to close because something else feels it would be more important to our area. I do not agree.

I have lived and worked in the Marion area since the late 70's. I remember going to the eye center first as an emergency. Time and expertise is important when you have something in your eye that could cost you your sight!

Now that I am retired, I have required surgery by Dr. Umana for a reoccurring eye problem on several occasions. Most of the occasions involved me going home with one of my eyes covered. This eye problem will continue...how many men would you trust coming at your eye holding a knife. I have complete confidence in the doctors that treat me at the Marion Eye Surgery Center.

I am not the only person who would be inconvenienced or have additional expense traveling elsewhere on a limited income to a further eye surgery clinic. Please consider the young families, income based apartment residents, all the nursing home residents and the many people who cannot afford to take off work for an eye problem. Marion Eye Surgery Center is convenient and accommodating to all.

The Marion Eye Center and Marion Eye Surgery Center employ many people. We need all the jobs we can keep. When facing surgery, I enjoy seeing all the familiar faces and know that many of them have been employed there for years. I hope you decide that these people can keep their jobs and retire in the Marion area just as I have done.

Please keep the Marion Eye Surgery Center in Marion.

Sincerely,

Ronald Banfield

Edith C. Loyd
1401 S. 16th St.
Herrin, IL 62948

RE: Marion Eye Center

I have been a patient of Dr. Ortiz for many years now. I appreciate the fact that Dr. Ortiz is available here in this area for my treatments.

I am needing surgery on my eye in the very near future. As an elderly person the fact that the Marion Surgery center is close to home is very important to me. It would be a great hardship on me to have to try to go out of the area for treatment.

It is a great relief to know that the Marion Eye Center and surgery center are close at hand for vitally needed services on a daily basis.

I am not alone in recognizing the negative effect that the loss of jobs and revenue that would result in our community should the surgery center have to relocate.

I am definitely against the sale of the surgery center to anyone other than Dr. Ahmad because of all the good he and the other doctors associated with him do for the local community and the surrounding area.

Edith C Loyd

Donald G Cogdill
204 S. 19th St.
Herrin, IL 62948

RE: Marion Eye Center

I have been a patient of Dr. Ortiz for many years now. I appreciate the fact that Dr. Ortiz is available here in this area for my treatments.

I am needing surgery on my eye in the very near future. As an elderly person the fact that the Marion Surgery center is close to home is very important to me. It would be a great hardship on me to have to try to go out of the area for treatment.

It is a great relief to know that the Marion Eye Center and surgery center are close at hand for vitally needed services on a daily basis.

I am not alone in recognizing the negative effect that the loss of jobs and revenue that would result in our community should the surgery center have to relocate.

I am definitely against the sale of the surgery center to anyone other than Dr. Ahmad because of all the good he and the other doctors associated with him do for the local community and the surrounding area.

Donald G Cogdill

Marion Eye Center & Optical
P.O. Box 1178
Marion, Ill. 62959-9938

To whom this Concerns:

Being a patient of Marion Eye Center, I certainly don't want to see Marion Eye Center Surgeons have to go elsewhere to perform surgery. I've had surgery several times and Marion is close for me I certainly don't want to travel outside the area for my eye care. I trust these doctors and don't want to lose this eye center

Respectably

Marjorie Barber

Illinois Health Planning Board
Marion City Council Chamber
1102 Tower Square
Marion, Illinois

SUBJECT: In support for Marion Eye Centers & Optical purchase bid

Dear Board Members, Dear City Council Members,

We are writing this letter in support of Marion Eye Center for their project of a surgery center in Marion.

For more than 4 years we have been loyal customers of Marion Eye Center and have built a sense of community relationship with the doctors and the staff operating at that facility. We are very much appreciative of the quality of treatment and care we are receiving over there for the past years and we look forward being their patients as long as we reside in the Carbondale area.

We have learned recently that the Marion Eye Center's administrative staff has applied to purchase the surgery center in Marion, where their doctors were performing surgery for the past years, and that the purchase is being challenged by a competitor whose primary interest is not in the healthcare business.

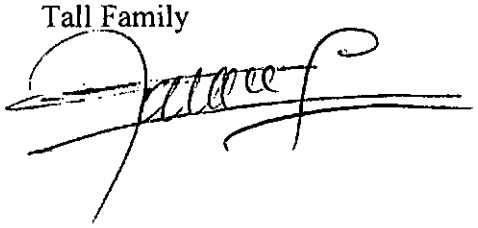
Because of the professionalism of the doctors at the Marion Eye Centers, their integrity, and the trust that they have built with the community, we would be forced to travel outside the area should they have to perform surgery elsewhere. This would be of great inconvenience, especially for the elders.

We believe that they are doing a wonderful job for the community and we are in much support of their bid of purchasing the surgery center in Marion.

We hope and expect that the Board members of the Illinois Health Planning Committee and the Marion City Council Chamber will take the right decision that is beneficial to community members.

Sincerely,

Issa A. Tall
Tall Family



My husband and I are in our 70's. In
surgery here we can take care of ourselves.
Out of area surgeries a driver and someone
else will have to miss a day(s) work. Please
make life more pleasant for the older patients

NAME: Clyde Hickey (Nancy)

ADDRESS: 14135 Linck Rd.
Marion, IL 62959

PHONE NUMBER: 618-997-2988

Carlos Machicao
1301 Camden Court
Marion, Illinois 62959

Dear Friend:

My name is Carlos Machicao. I have been a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist at the surgery center in Marion, Illinois since December, 1985. I have worked with various ophthalmoligist over the years, and in particular, with Dr. Ahmad since he started working at the Surgicenter of Southern Illinois. After Dr. Ahmad built his own surgery center in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, I started working for him at that location. No other employee, at either surgery center, has worked longer with Dr. Ahmad then myself.

In all the years I have worked with Dr. Ahmad, he has always maintained a professional demeanor in my presence. He has always treated me with the upmost courtesy and professionalism. He has never raised his voice to me at any time.

If you have any questions concerning my working relationship with Dr. Ahmad, I would gladly discuss such matters with you. My telephone number is (618) 993-2563.

Thank you kindly for allowing me the opportunity to express my opinions on this subject.

Respectfully,

Carlos Machicao

4/04/11

Yvonne Whitfield, RN, BSN, FCN
3389 – N McGeesville Rd.
Carbondale, IL. 62902

To whom it may concern,

This letter is written in strong support of Dr. Maqbool Ahmad of the Marion Eye Centers as he seeks to purchase the Southern Illinois Surgery Center in Marion. IL. By purchasing this Surgery Center the Marion Eye Center will be able to take its superior care to an even higher level for the people of southern Illinois. The Marion Eye Center which already provides total eye care could expand their retina service which is so needed in this rural area. Having worked as a registered nurse for 45 years in most hospital areas including surgery, I can attest to the advantage of working in a surgery setting that is equipped with up to date equipment and a staff that is knowledgeable of the care and needs of the eye patient and can completely focus on that specialty.

I was privileged to work with Dr.Ahmad when he first came to Southern Illinois. Eye surgery was new to our hospital. Dr. Ahmad patiently taught the surgery staff his surgical routine, made sure the hospital had all the necessary equipment to care for his patients and most importantly helped the staff understand the special needs of an eye patient. Dr. Ahmad is an ethical man who shows consideration and respect for his patients.

As it happens, Dr. Ahmad was called into the emergency room one evening to take care of my husband who had an accident while working at home that caused a nail to hit him in his eye . Thanks to Dr. Ahmad's considerable skill my husband has vision in both his eyes. I was so thankful that Dan could receive the care he needed right here in southern Illinois. I was a young mother with four children and no other family in the area. I wouldn't have been able to support him and our children as well if he had to leave the area for care. To this day my husband and I are both patients of Marion Eye Center.

Forty five years of nursing experience has taught me a lot but nothing more important than being near your family, church family and friends in times of crisis and illness. Marion Eye Centers want us to have all the care we need right here at home. Let's make that happen!

Sincerely,
Yvonne Whitfield, RN, BSN, FCN

April 2, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife and I are unable to attend the April 5 public hearing and thus write this letter to voice our support for the doctors and staff of Marion Eye Centers and Optical in their attempt to purchase from Surgical Care Affiliates their majority share in the Marion Surgery Center. Both my wife and myself are now nearing our 80s, and the vision care of Marion Eye Centers has been a blessing to us for a number of years. This current contention over purchase of shares in the Marion Surgery Center, from which they have served our community for the past 15 years, is disturbing, to say the least, for those of us who are patients. Should their purchase of the Center be dubiously sidetracked or, worse, denied, the resulting inconvenience and uncertainty passed on to patients like my wife and myself would be a burden of no small consequence. Although we cannot attend this hearing, we trust that this letter will allow our voices to be heard in support of Marion Eye Centers. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Walter & Wilda Eldridge

2153 Town Creek Road
Murphysboro, IL 62966

April 1, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I feel that it would be best to have Dr. Ahmad own the surgical center since he is a very well-known specialist in his field.

He is a highly respected Doctor in this community.

Sincerely,

Brad Wiseman 618-242-5100

April 1, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in reference to the Marion Surgical Center.

I feel very strongly that it would be in the best interest of the community to have Dr. Ahmad own the surgical center since he is a very well-known specialist in his field.

He has a very good reputation and is highly respected in our community.

Sincerely,

Tonya Tiemann 618-249-4669

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in reference to the purchase of the Surgical Center in Marion, Illinois.

I am convinced that the best owner of this center is Dr. Ahmad.

He is a highly respected member of the community and a leader in his profession.

It makes perfect sense to have a Doctor be an owner of a Surgical Center.

Sincerely,

Eugene Miller 618-242-0308

April 1, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I would like to recommend Dr. Ahmad to be the owner of the Marion Surgical Center in Marion, Illinois.

He is a very well-known specialist in his field and is highly respected in this community. He has a great reputation for his outstanding work.

I feel this would be a real asset to our area.

Sincerely,

Sandra J Miller 618-244-1179

April 1, 2011

To whom it may concern,

It is my understanding that Dr. Ahmad would like to purchase the Marion Surgical Center in Marion, Illinois. I would like to recommend Dr. Ahmad to be the owner of that Surgical Center.

I have known Dr. Ahmad in a business relationship for several years and have always found him to be very professional and amiable. He demands the highest of standards in his business.

He is a very well-known specialist in his field and is highly respected in this community.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Duncan

Charles R. Duncan

618-231-4735

Marion Eye Center.

I am 81 yrs of age and it would be very inconvenient for me to travel outside my area for eye procedures. I strongly believe we should keep Marion Surgery Center open.

Helen McBride
942-3098

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL
PO BOX 1178
MARION, IL. 62959-9938

3-14-2011

SIRS

THE IDEA OF CLOSING YOUR FACILITY IS BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION. WE CANNOT VISUALIZE ANY POSITIVE RESULTS FROM THIS TRANSACTION.

WE ARE IN OUR 80'S, AND HAVING TO TRAVEL A FURTHER DISTANCE IS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE. DR. AHMAD'S QUICK ACTION AND MEDICAL SKILLS SAVED ME FROM TOTAL BLINDNESS.

WHY SHOULD A NON-HEALTHCARE ENTITY EVEN BE CONSIDERED, WHEN THEIR ONLY BUSINESS IS TO MAKE MONEY, NOT HELP PEOPLE.

SINCERELY

Dorothy Curtis

DOROTHY CURTIS
900 VILLA COURT APT 310
CARBONDALE, IL. 62901

711 E. Candy Cane Ln.

West Frankfort, IL

62896

15 March 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this in opposition to the contemplated closure of the Marion Surgery Center.

My wife and I are both in our late 70's and have had eye surgery done at the Marion Surgery Center. I have had surgery performed at the Mt. Vernon Surgery Center . There is no comparison in convenience between the two locations. My surgery was done in January 2011 which happened to be the date of our last snow storm and required me to find someone with a 4-wheel drive vehicle in order to keep the scheduled surgery appointment at Mt. Vernon. This would not have been required if the surgery had been scheduled for Marion.

To see the import of loss of revenue that would be or has been involved, one would only have had to make a trip to the local restaurants on Cataract Surgery Day.

The economy is already in a sad situation without the termination of more employees caused by the closure of another facility.

Sincerely,

Walter K. Hehner Jr.

WALTER K. HEHNER JR.

A Special Note...

MARCH 14, 2011

TO MARION EYE CENTER,
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I WAS VERY CONCERNED TO HEAR THAT MARION EYE CENTER WAS FOR SALE.

I AM IN A WHEELCHAIR, I HAVE A HARD TIME MAKING MY APPOINTMENTS HERE. I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WOULD BE IF I HAD TO GO OUT OF TOWN.

DR. OLK IS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS WITH MY "MACULAR DEGENERATION." PLEASE DON'T ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN. SINCERLY,

Joan Weeks

3/13/11

Marion Eye Centers and Optical
Marion, Illinois

I do not approve of the selling of the Marion Surgery Center to a non-physician healthcare entity. This would mean an inconvenience to the patient – they would have to travel outside the area. There would be a loss of eye procedure testing – a loss of jobs in our community and a loss of revenue for the community. I do not approve of this action.

yours truly
Rita S. Cox

Juanita F. Cummins
Apt. 10C
1209 E 5th St.
Metropolis, IL 62960-2385

To Whom it may Concern, March 15, 2011
Refering to the Marion Eye Center,

The eye center is needed so very much in Marion, Il.

Alot of patients and future patients love the fact that it is close to us, who live outside of Marion, Il. as it is not a long drive to get there.

Also very convenient for those who do live in Marion, Il.

If the Doctors had to leave Marion Eye Center an move elsewhere, alot of Senor Citizens will not be able to travel farther than Marion, Il.

The community will loose very wonderful Doctors & Nurses as well as other staff members.

This is a Medical Building setup with Surgercial Doctor's + Nurses, what does a Non-Healthcare-Non-Physician entity want with a place that has served this area for so many, many years?

We ~~need~~ the people outside of Marion, Il & the people in Marion, Il. Need This

Eye Center where it is,
No where else.
We the people need it to
stay where it is.
Its a wonderful place with
great Doctors, Surgeon's & Staff
I have had Eye Surgery
through the Marion Eye Center, Thank
God it was so close and so
easy to go through.
Alot of my friends and people
I worked with in the area (before
my retirement) have had surgery
through the Marion Eye Center, who's
say it was so easy & convenient
there.
Please let the Marion Eye
Center stay where it is We need it.

Thank You
Juanita F. Cummens
1209 E. 5th St. Apt. 10C
Metropolis, IL. 62960

March 14 - 2011

To: Whom it may concern,
I'm a patient of Marion Eye Center & Optical.
It would be Inconvenience for me to travel outside the area for care. Marion Eye Center has giving me excellent care. My Family and Friends, use Marion Eye Center. The Surgeons and Staff are Wonderful. So think that a non-physician non healthcare, take over, When We have a Great Eye Center, We dont need any Job lost in our Community, or loss of revenue.

Geraldine Llewellyn

Geraldine Llewellyn
45 Water Tower Trlr. Ct.
Anna, IL 62906

3/14/11

To whom it may Concern:

Please let the dr. have the building. I am 85 yrs old & can't travel for we need this service to stay in Marion. Plus we don't need to lose any more jobs here,

Flossie Constable

Mrs. Flossie M. Constable
401 W Ford St
Energy, IL 62933

To Whom it may concern.

I got a letter about my doctor trying to buy a building. That would be great he would still be right here in town. When I had my eye surgery the tube had come out and since he is right here in town I just drove over there and I got right in. If I would have to leave town every time that happens I would have to change docs and I like our doc.

Mendi Hester
906 S Hermandr Apt 1
Marion, IL
62959
618-579-9175

3-14-11

Dear Sirs;

I am an 86 year old patient of the Marion Eye Center.

I just learned that an out of town party is interested in the purchase of the Eye Center.

I would urge you to refrain from this issuance of a Certificate to this out of town non-surgeon party.

It would be hard to travel to get the necessary service if this party gets the license.

I trust you will decide what will be Best for the local people

Respectfully yours
Floyd D. Eggen

Floyd Eggen
300 Gateway Rd.
Marion, IL 62959

Mar. 15, 2014

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of my mother-in-law - Mary Osman. She is 96 years old and has been a patient of the Marion Eye Center for a number of years.

This is a major concern for us. We live in Cypress and going to Marion can be a chore sometimes. Not only her age but she has to go in a wheel chair now and has other health problems. It would mean so much and better for her and I if it could stay in Marion.

Thank you

Linda Osman

and

Mary Osman

March 12 - 2011

To whom it may concern,

I have Macular degeneration & have to go often for treatments. I can't drive, so I have to have someone take me. So if I had to travel further it would be hard for me.

Bobbie Cobin
507 N 7th St.
Elkville, IL 62932

Bobbie Cobin
507 N. 7th St.
Elkville, IL 62932

3-14-11

Notes...

Amos + Rose Mitchell are in
our 90s.
We have been patients of Marion
Eye Center for lots of years. They have
been good years. Their Doctors
and staff are kind patient and
professional. What more could you
ask? To change would be like
trading a new car for a clunker
At age 90 you don't like
to travel far.

Praying for vision.

Amos & Rose Mitchell Jan 92
~ old patients.

Lois M Bradley
515 W Vermont
Centreville IL 62207

March 14, 2011

Illinois Health
planning Board

I have just learned of what is going on at the Marion Eye Centers & optical. I personally wish the Eye center to remain as is I am much in need of theyre services & I cannot Travel far to receive them.

My vision is fading pretty fast & when I was there the other day I would say a lot of other people also need them.

We dont need ownerships and decision making done by some one not interested in health care and I believe the Eye center is doing a good service for the area & is much needed

I would like to see Marion Eye center & optical to be left to continue theyre work.

Sincerely
Lois M Bradley

March 12th. 2021

To Whom it may Concern,

I was a patient at the Marion Eye Center. A cataral was removed from my right eye, which restored my vision and has me to see clearly.

The staff at Marion Eye Center was very professional, also I personally feel that it should Remain as it is, The Location is convient for those who may not have their own transportation, such as myself.

The follow up service was good, I appreciate the over all concern and successful surgery that I received at the Marion Eye Center.

Sincerely

Thomas White

Marion Eye Center.)
In Case you need this letter
here it is, I want Marion Eye center
no where Only, Marion Eye Center.
Opal McFont

I THINK THERE SHOULD BE A SURGERY CENTER IN MARION. I HAD MY LEFT EYE OPERATED ON THERE AND MY RIGHT EYE OPERATED ON AT MT. VERNON. I WAS SATISIFIED WITH THE RESULTS FROM BOTH PLACES.

I FELT MORE AT EASE TRALELING TO MARION FROM CARMI. I ALSO FEET THE MARION CENTER WAS ABOVE AVERAGE AS A PROFESSIONAL CARE CENTER.

I WOULD RECOMMEND RETAINING THE MARION SURGERY CENTER FOR EYE SURGERY.

Ted Wood

205 DARAS DR.
CARMI, IL. 62821

TO Whom it may Concern;

Iam a disabled elderly Citizen and a patient of the, Mt. Vernon location, marion Center. My care giver is not allowed to take me out of town for any reason, and therefore I would not be able to make a surgery out of town. I would have to switch to a new eye doctor, and I would rather keep mine. Please do not do this, think of the disabled, the elderly, or those who are both as I myself am.

Thanking you in advance

Anna L Cathers

March 23, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

When I received a letter stating that we may lose some of the benefits of having a eye surgical center in our area, I was disturbed. It has been wonderful having such a center close to home. Many of us who need these procedures are elderly and unable to travel even to St. Louis or Cape Girardeau. I have been a patient of Marion Eye Center for many years and have had several surgeries there. Their staff is so pleasant to talk to and I always feel confident when a procedure needs to be done.

I hope that the needs of the patients are taken into consideration before those in opposition are allowed to take this center away from our area.

Sincerely,

Joan Mifflin
Murphysboro, Il. 62966

Dan Whitfield, (Rev.)
3389 N. McGeesville Road
Carbondale (Williamson County)
Illinois, 62902

March 20, 2011

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is in support of the Marion Eye Center as it seeks to purchase the Southern Illinois Surgery Center. I have been a patient of Dr. Maqbool Ahmad since before he opened the Marion Eye Center & Optical. My wife, (Yvonne Whitfield, RN, BSN) worked with him when he was practicing at St. Joseph Hospital in Murphysboro. We both have the highest regard for him both professionally and personally. His integrity and ethics are above reproach.

When pastoring in Marion, I had the occasion to request his services on behalf of a poverty stricken woman in my congregation. He was both willing and prompt in tending to her need in a completely professional and adequate manner.

The Marion Eye Center has served the community of Marion as well as surrounding communities for many years. It has been an integral part of the business community and the medical profession in particular. I strongly support the Marion Eye Center and oppose (in fact, resent) the efforts to thwart the efforts to acquire the Southern Illinois Surgery Center.

Sincerely,

Dan Whitfield

Dan Whitfield, (Rev.)

BURLEY - SHAY INVESTMENTS, LTD.

401 N. Beadle Drive P.O. Box 159 Carbondale, IL 62903 (618) 529-5161
Fax (618) 549-6952

Marion Eye Center_2011

Illinois Health Planning Board
Springfield, IL

RE: Illinois Health Planning Board – Certificate of Need – Marion Surgery Center

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

I have been associated with Marion Eye Center & Optical from its founding. My understanding of the simple business plan this company was founded upon was and is "Provide Southern Illinois and the surrounding area with the best eye care available through a staff of highly professional physicians and staff".

Marion Eye Center has capitalized upon this simple plan by recruiting the best professionals in the field of eye care, providing community based facilities staffed with local caring employees, and centralizing specialized procedures to insure the safety of their patients.

Any attempt to move the medical procedures and administration of these services away from the physician and the trained staff that provide them and to put them in the hands of non-medically related individuals or entities, appears to be counter productive. Experience says that to recruit and retain these highly professional individuals is doubly tough in Southern Illinois. To then, throw additional roadblocks up to complicate the practice of eye care, simply means Southern Illinois looses again.

I would suggest that the best avenue is to let the leadership that has proven successful, for over a decade, in providing the highest degree of care and services to the citizens of Southern Illinois in control. This allows for the continuity of services, safety of patients, and stability for the staff.

Yours truly,

Donald W. Shay

March 28, 2011

Marion Eye Centers & Optical
P. O. Box 1178
Marion, IL 62959-9938

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to support Dr. Ahmad and prevent a non-physician non-healthcare facility from obtaining a certificate of need.

I have had surgery at the facility, as well as my husband. Moving the facility out of the area would be a great inconvenience for us as well as many other patients and future patients.

Travel time and ability to travel further would be difficult for many elderly, handicapped as well as all patients.

My husband and I are thoroughly opposed to the granting of a certificate of need to a non-physician and non-healthcare facility entity.

The ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity is **Unacceptable.**

Sincerely,
Patricia Furtak
Patricia Furtak

March 31, 2011
Marion, IL.

Dear Sirs,

A few years ago, Dr. M. Ahmad performed Cataract surgery for me at Marion Surgery Center. The convenience of having that surgery at the MSC was of great importance.

As we seniors grow older it will become almost impossible to travel to another city for eye surgery.

Please consider the need for the Doctors and Staff of Marion Eye Centers to purchase the property owned by SCA (Surgical Care Affiliates).

With Sincere Thanks,

NAME: Lowanda Cadle
ADDRESS: 318 Red Row
Marion, IL. 62959
PHONE NUMBER: 618-993-3611

March 31, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board

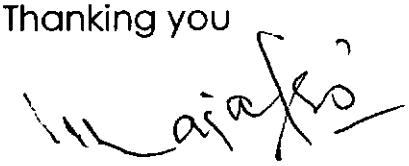
Dear Sir,

I am patient of Marion Eye Center and have benefited immensely from their services. They are very professional in their approach and lay a great emphasis on patient welfare. They would go out of the way to help patients who have pecuniary constraints.

Doctors having to move out of Marion to perform surgeries, would mean extreme Hardships for senior citizens like me in terms of physical commute and time consumption. This is besides loss of revenue to city and possible unemployment for fellow community members.

I strongly request you to please consider awarding the sale of Southern Illinois Surgery Center to Marion Eye Center not only because of their expertise, professionalism and compassionate approach but because of the fact that patient is not a unit of Revenue for them but a human being.

Thanking you



Syed Khalid A. Jafri
1508 Baltusrol Drive
Marion, Illinois

March 13, 2011

To Whom This May Concern:

We have been informed there is a possibility of our Marion area loosing the Marion Eye Centers & Optical.

This would be an inconvenience to us, as patients, as well as we would have to travel outside the area for our eye care and with the high price of gas, many people would be in this same situation, unable to afford gas to travel the longer distance..

Citizens in our age group find this to be a great disadvantage. Please consider we citizens and this would also mean loss of jobs in our area, as well as loss of revenue for us.

Most importantly is the loss of our eye doctors whom many elderly people have learned to trust and receive our eye care.

Please don't let these Doctors be taken from us.

Sincerely,

Charles & Phyllis Jackson

Charles and Phyllis Jackson

To Whom It May Concern:

I sincerely hope that the surgery center for the Marion Eye Center is able to stay In Marion because as a person who has had several eye surgeries there It was more convient wise as for the travel. Also I believe as long as the doctors From the eye center have been doing surgery there it is only fair that they be able to continue to do so, Please give this chance to do so for the sake of their many Older patients who will be the most affected as far as travel goes.

Thank you
Peggy O'keefe

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
1-800-344-7058

McLeansboro
1-618-643-2650

Metropolis
1-800-344-7058

Mt. Vernon
1-618-244-2777

Murphysboro
1-618-565-1405

Nashville
1-618-327-3900

Pinckneyville
1-618-357-2020

Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. • Enrique Peralta, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D
Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. • Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D.
Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

ROBERT TRAVELSTEAD

1115 EAGLE POINT BAY RD

GOREVILLE, IL 62939

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

The marion Surgery Center, should stay in marion, Inconvenience, the traveling would be difficult to a lot of older patients, Thanks

March 15

To Whom It May Concern:

I am asking you to please not allow the Health Planning Board to receive a certificate for taking over the services of our wonderful eye surgeons. We have some of the best in this community and we want to keep them.

It would not only be inconvenient, folks would have to travel a long distance; others would lose jobs and the lack of our already good services would be in jeopardy.

Please don't mess with something already so good. Thanks for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

William Jackson

William Jackson

Naomi Endrizzi
406 W 5th St
Johnston City, IL 62951

To: Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that the Marion Eye Center has come up for sale. I sincerely hope that Dr. Ahmad will be the one who purchases said Surgery Center. The docs. associated with this surgery center are the best of the best and it would be an inconvenience for me as well as hundreds of others to have to travel to see anyone of those docs. if they move out of the Marion area. Please do not let this surgery center leave this area as it would be a loss not only our travel time but loss of Revenue, jobs and great docs. We deserve this. 25 yrs. says alot about the Marion Eye Center.

Sincerely
Naomi Endrizzi

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
1-800-344-7058

McLeansboro
1-618-643-2650

Metropolis
1-800-344-7058

Mt. Vernon
1-618-244-2777

Murphysboro
1-618-565-1405

Nashville
1-618-327-3900

Pinckneyville
1-618-357-2020

Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

LARRY DAWSON
Charlotte E. Dawson
PO BOX 464

MULKEYTOWN, IL 62865

Mrs. Charlotte Dawson
PO Box 464
Mulkeytown, IL 62865-0464

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

Larry G. Dawson
Charlotte E Dawson

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
165 Plaza Dr.
Anna, IL 62906
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1102 N. Main Street
Benton, IL 62812
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1001 Beadle Dr.
Carbondale, IL 62901
1-800-654-3562

Carmi
1201 W Main
Carmi, IL 62821
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
404 E. Plaza Drive
Carterville, IL 62918
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
899 E. McCord St.
Centralia, IL 62801
1-618-532-1997

Chester
203 VanZant
Chester, IL 62233
1-618-826-5413

Eldorado
1204 US Hwy 45 North
Eldorado, IL 62930
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
101 East Main St.
Fairfield, IL 62837
1-618-842-3228

Harrisburg
#5 Eye Center Dr.
Harrisburg, IL 62946
1-618-252-2403

Herrin
321 South Park
Herrin, IL 62948
1-618-942-2900

McLeansboro
311 S. Jackson St.
McLeansboro, IL 62859
1-618-643-2650

Mt. Vernon
3111 Broadway
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
1-618-244-2777

Marion
1200 W. DeYoung
Marion, IL 62959
1-800-344-7058

Metropolis
1801 E. 5th, Box 890
Metropolis, IL 62960
1-800-851-3601

Murphysboro
1934 Walnut St.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
1-618-565-1405

SIU Carbondale
374 E. Grand Ave.
Carbondale, IL 62901
1-618-549-0615

Sparta
520 E. Broadway, Suite 100
Sparta, IL 62886
1-618-443-3111

Surgery Center
806 N. Treas
Marion, IL 62959
1-618-993-2113

Vienna
1005 W Vine St.
Vienna, IL 62995
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
909 W. Main St.
West Frankfort, IL 62896
1-618-937-2442

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. · Ukeme Umana, M.D. · George Ortiz, M.D. · Meth Linwong, M.D. · Irfan Ansari, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. · Mark Barlow, O.D. · William Fix, O.D. · Brenda Hutchison, O.D. · Lisa Thatch, O.D. · Mollie Raddatz, O.D.
Beth Westell, O.D. · Michael Kalaher, O.D. · Eric Weinbauer, O.D. · Debra Hall, O.D. · Chih-Jen Wang, O.D. · Lisa Hager, O.D.

ANNA CATHERS

4307 ROSELN #3

MT VERNON, IL 62864

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis ← definatly
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity ← Absoutly!
- Unknown future of the surgery center ← This is - NOT!
- Loss of jobs in our community ← Yes Ridculas!
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
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Carbondale SIU
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McLeansboro
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Murphysboro
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Nashville
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Pinckneyville
1-618-357-2020

Salem
1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

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VIRGINIA WILLS

130 MUNDELL DR

BENTON, IL 62812

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity no
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

I like Dr. Olk. Very much, I have been seeing him a long time

Thank you for your support. We want it to stay the Same, Virginia Wills

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Carbondale
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Staff

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Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Timothy Blankenship, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D.
Dolly Campbell, O.D. • William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D
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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

THOMAS WHITE

104 W JACKSON

MARION, IL 62959

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

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- Loss of revenue for the community

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Thank you for your support.

This will be a very big inconvenience because I do not drive and my eye doctor is Doctor Ortiz has done my eye surgery of Carbondale Illinois. I would not like him to be moved because of this Inconvenience. I do not want a new eye doctor because Dr ortiz has done a great Job. I would like to keep him (Dr ortiz) as my doctor.

thanks

NAME: Milton Santos

ADDRESS: 1400 N Illinois Ave #455
Carbondale IL 62901

PHONE NUMBER: 618-201-1602

March 15 2011

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER IN MY CONCERN ABOUT THE MARION EYE CENTER.

I HAVE BEEN A PATIENT OF DR. ORTIZ SINCE 1991, DUE TO EYE TROUBLE. DUE TO HIS SKILL AND A GREAT STAFF I AM DOING WELL, AND ANY OTHER TREATMENT I MIGHT NEED I WOULD WANT THE MARION EYE CENTER TO BE THERE FOR ME. I LIVE ONLY SIX MILES FROM THE C'DALE OFFICE, WHICH MAKE IT VERY CONVENT FOR ME. ALSO I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SAME STAFF STAY IN FORCE. A OWNERSHIP OF A NON HEALTH CARE ENTITY WOULD NOT BE GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN IL.

A CONCERN CITIZEN

BILL DAVIS
10 SOUTH 8TH ST.
MURPHYSBORO IL.
62966

Shirley Godwin
1356 E. Grange Hall Rd.
Murphysboro, IL 62966

March 14, 2011

Dear Marion Eye Centers & Optical,

It has been brought to my attention your physicians may be leaving our area.

This would create such an inconvenience to me and my family. Due to my failing health I cannot travel a long distance or even try to find transportation further away.

I am very satisfied with my eye care providers and having to receive numerous treatment related to my eye condition, it would be impossible for me continue any follow up treatments.

My Degenerative Macular Disease was noted in the early stages and treatment was administered immediately to restore my eyesight. This reflected in a routine checkup.

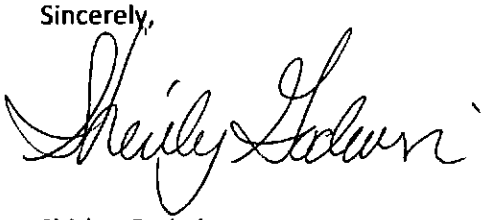
Long distance would prevent me to travel less and a routine eye exam would be less often, which would allowed my condition to become more aggressive. (possible blindness)

Carbondale needs to retain as many surgeons, instead of leaving our community.

I speak for all widow's that live by themselves and family resides further away.

I hope we can save Marion Eye Center's & Opitcal to stay in our area, "we" need you.

Sincerely,



Shirley Godwin
Satisfied Patient

VIRGINIA SWANSON

1715 Melmar Drive
Marion, IL 62959
618 889-5865

March 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to assure you that my husband and I being seniors, greatly appreciate having a local facility like the Marion Eye Center. We prefer not to travel when we need care.

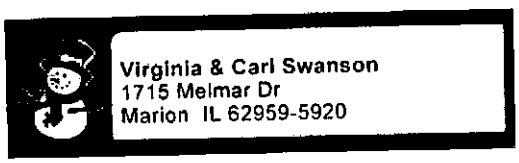
We enjoy the care we get from our Doctors George Ortiz, Robert Kippenbrock and William Fix. The Doctors are always pleasant and professional. Once we establish a relationship, we don't want to lose it to start over again with someone different. With the cost of gasoline, we certainly don't want to travel any further.

My 43 year old son also uses this facility. He has glaucoma, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis in his hands and feet, and a heart problem. Either his wife or I have to drive him to his appointments. It would be a great inconvenience if we had to drive any further. His wife and I are both insulin dependent diabetics. My daughter in law also has a pace maker. We need our facility as is. Life is complicated enough.

Sincerely,

Virginia Swanson

Virginia Swanson



To whom it may concern!

I am writing opposing the certificate of
moving the surgery center out of Marion.
I have been going to Dr Ahmad for many
years & have had surgery in Marion office
I also have family members that go to Dr Ahmad.
I have a 96 year old mother that sees
Dr. Ahmad & have had surgery here.
It would defenitly be an inconvenience to her
& everyone else.
There would be a loss of jobs in the
community & also loss of revenue.
Please keep Marion eye Center in Marion
Ill.

618-596-1009

thank you
Vera Mills
Po Box 253
Zeigler Ill 62999

To Whom it may concern:

It has been brought to our attention that we might be losing our only eye surgery & emergency care facility in Marion, Illinois. We are very upset to hear this as this will have a detrimental effect on our area both health wise & economically!

It is a fact that hospital ER's are not equipped to handle any eye treatment that involves loss of vision, retinal detachment or even diagnosing a serious problem in the eye. My husband has had a stroke in his left eye which left him with loss of vision as well as loss of peripheral vision. He made a visit to the local hospital ER & was told he had not had a stroke...proving the need for the Marion Surgery Center.

I have been visiting the eye center for the past 6 months at various times for possible retinal tear or detachment. So far my examinations have proven negative but there may come a time when I would need emergency care & there would be none...without driving out of the area.

It is our hope that the matter will be considered to retain the surgery center in Marion. Besides the reasons already listed it would incur

Inconvenience to the patient
Patients having to travel outside the area
Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operate in because of his experience and integrity
Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
Unknown future of the surgery center
Loss of jobs in our community
Loss of revenue for the community

Please consider our concerns.

Mr & Mrs Horace Parker

Horace Parker, Jr.
16532 Route 37
Johnston City, IL 62951-2627

Fred H. Dippel, Ed. D.
1713 Quail Run
Marion IL 62959

March 17, 2011

To Whom it May Concern:

In my eighty-six years of life, in naval service and in civilian life, I have been treated by more eye health care professionals than is the lot of most people. Thus, I have come to appreciate the importance of readily and conveniently available well-trained personnel when an eye anomaly develops. Therefore, I urge that the Marion Eye Center remain at its present Marion location and as now staffed.

Furthermore, I endorse the reasons listed below for maintaining the present service as it is and where it now is:

* Inconvenience to the patient

* Patients having to travel outside the area

* Patients will travel to the facility a doctor operates in because of his experience and integrity

* Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis

* Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity

* Unknown future of the surgery center

* Loss of jobs in our community

* Loss of revenue for the community

Fred H. Dippel

March 18, 2011

Marion Eye Centers
PO Box 1178
Marion, IL 62959-9938

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a patient of the Marion Eye Centers and it is a concern to me as a patient and member of the community that the Eye Center would be sold to a non-physician non-healthcare. This would be inconvenient to me as a patient for many reasons: traveling outside of the community to see my physician. I would travel to the facility that my doctor operates in because of his experience and integrity. I would not be comfortable with ownership and decision making done by a non-healthcare entity. I am terribly concerned about the unknown future of the surgery center as a whole; loss of jobs in our community, loss of revenue for our community and most of all loss of experienced retina doctors in our community.

Concerned patient,

Phyllis Borgsmiller

Phyllis Borgsmiller
2105 Rainbow Drive
Murphysboro, IL 62966

3/17/2011

Marion Eye Center
PO Box 1178
Marion, Illinois 62959-9938

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this of the status of the Marion Eye Center. We wish to keep the office in the Marion area. It is needed for the convenience of the patients in this area. We elderly patients cannot drive far or we have to find another way. We do not wish to go to Mt Vernon for service.

Respectfully,

Frances Sisk

Frances Sisk
P.O. Box 149
Dowell, IL 62927

March 17, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to oppose the Purchase of the Marion Eye Center by the non-physician, non-healthcare entity. I understand that the surgeons at Marion Eye Center will not be able to do surgery at these locations if this happens. We need this service for our area so that we don't have to travel distances to get the surgery that we need. I have a trust with my doctors at Marion Eye Center and do not relish having to get other doctors or traveling elsewhere for the service that I receive at Marion Eye Center.

I personally don't want someone who is not a health-care entity to make medical decisions for me. Also, just think of the impact it will have in the community.

Please don't take our wonderful doctors away.

Thank you,

Brenda D McCluskie

Brenda McCluskie
307 S Emma Street
West Frankfort, IL 62896

March 17, 2011

TO: Marion Eye Centers & Optical

Many people in southern Illinois have come to rrely on retina services as provided by Marion Eye Centers. Many of these patients are elderly and almost always require the assistance of family and friends to transport them for their surgery. Any change or added distance complicates their problems.

Marion Eye Centers, as it is presently located and operated, is an asset to our communities. Changes in the proximity of these retina surgery services will disrupt employees and patients alike.

The Illinois Health Planning Board should consider the excellent job presently being done by Marion Eye Centers and reject any proposed request for change.

Yours truly,

William Krueger

William Krueger

602 Murphysboro Road

Chester, IL 62233

March 15, 2011

Dear Marion Eye Center Staff,

I just received your notice regarding the possibility of your Center relocating. This would cause a great inconvenience to my family as my mom is 95 & my husband has handicaps & to travel outside Marion area would be nearly impossible if not impossible.

Once established with a Surgeon it is most difficult to make new adjustments.

We are 100% against M.E.C. moving out of Marion.

Respectfully,
Joan Moore

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

RUBY MORRIS

2950 WESTRIDGE PL APT 102

CARBONDALE, IL 62901

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support. Umana M. Do is my eye Doctor I am Well Pleased with his work.
Ruby Morris

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
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Carmi
1-618-384-5112

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Staff

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Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

March 15, 2011

CARMEN FELKER

195 W.TOWNSEND P O BOX 417

SHAWNEETOWN, IL 62984

I am very sorry to hear about the possibility of this doctor change. However, I will no longer be seeing Dr. Ortiz.

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

Sincerely,
Carmen Felker

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We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

1310 IL HWY 1

Carmi, IL 62821

March 15, 2011

Marion Eye Centers

PO BOX 1178

Marion, IL 62959-9938

To Marion Eye Centers:

This is in regard to the sale of Marion Eye Center. I've been going there because I like the service and because it is convenient. I was going to the Carmi office when they discovered that I had glaucoma. I have been seeing Dr. Ortiz since that time. I have had surgery done three times at the Marion office and I've been satisfied with the service. I don't want to lose the Carmi office either because I have had to depend on Stanley to help me from time to time. Just lately I needed a screw in my glasses because I lost it and I needed my glasses since I work at the Carmi White-County High School. I was only gone a short period of time and I was back at work. Sometimes people need contacts, so they can get back to work place real quick. We have lost enough jobs in our area and we don't need to lose these people that we depend on. The lost of any of the jobs will affect the communities that they are located in.

I purchase my glasses in Carmi because I like to have a place where I can get them taken care of quickly. Some of my test can be done here in Carmi and I don't have to miss a half day of work. My last test took about 10 or 15 minutes. With the cost of gas I prefer to have test done here if I don't have to see Dr. Ortiz at his Harrisburg office. They have offices located in several different areas and that makes it convenient time and money wise for the consumers.

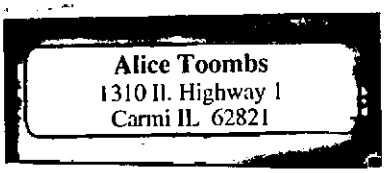
I sure hope that we can keep the business as it is for all the parties concerned.

Sincerely yours,

Alice Toombs

Alice Toombs

Concerned Patient



Mar 14-11

Dear Sirs

Regarding the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center it would be a inconvenience to me as I already drive 1 1/2 hours to reach the center I feel I could not drive further and would have to seek a new physician. Also it would cause a loss of jobs and revenue to the community.

Sincerely,
Emily J. Artis

3-28-11

In Regards to Surgery Center
I feel that lisciuned physician
Should Be owner/operator of
Surgery Center not some lawyer
that won't have the Knowledge
+ pt Care as first Interest
+ I have had many family
Members have Surgery there +
hope to Continue + to Keep Reputable
person working at the Surgery Center

Ronnie G. Davey

Cam.

3-28-11

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Alan D. Brand

3-28-11

The Surgery Center Should Be Own/Ran By a Medical Doctor that Has patients Best Interest first not Money, a M.D. Knows what is Best for pts & that's what needs to Be done, Lawyer dont need to Be deciding what is Best for patients having any Kind of Surgery. SX Center needs to Be in under a physicians directions not a Lawyers. Thankyou

Edward Rios

Regards to Surgery Center at Marion.
I feel it should be owned
By a practicing M.D. with the
legal Credentials who has taken
oath to do the Best for patient Care
No money first + know what is
Best for pt Care + this would be
Best for all patients + to keep a
good work place + keep job in
Marion.

Stanley Healy

3-28-11

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GEORGE LAND
4775 LICK CREEK RD
BUNCOMBE, IL 62912

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

- Inconvenience to the patient
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The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

3-18-11

TO Whom it May Concern

Please don't move your offices! It is very important you stay in the Marion area. I had surgery there and received great care. There is also the loss of jobs and revenue for the area if the Marion Eye Center is forced to move out of the area. I continue to need the services of the Marion Eye Center - in MARION. It will be very difficult for me to go elsewhere.

Thanks — Pattie J Conley.

PATTIE CONLEY
PO BOX 824
NEW BURNSIDE IL 62967

April 4, 2011

To the attention of The Illinois
Health Planning Board
and
Whom it May Concern:

I am a patient at the Marion Eye Center. I had lasik surgery done there over 5 years ago. At this time, I am on a maintenance schedule and have an annual appointment.

I am 67 years old, retired and living on a fixed income. It would be a great inconvenience for me to go out of town for these appointments.

It is my prayer that you would put the patients of the Marion Eye Center before some greedy attorney. I'm convinced that I know who that attorney is. It is, probably, the same one causing our local school board problems and excess amounts of money.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Beasley

Charles R. Beasley
3635 Saraville Road
Creal Springs Il 62922

David Mueller
210 Dillinger Rd.
Carbondale, IL. 62901

April 2, 2011

City of Marion, City Council & Mayor
Marion City Council
1102 Tower Square
Marion, IL.

Dear Mayor Butler and Members of the City Council

I recently moved from Phoenix, Arizona were I was under the care of a prominent eye surgeon for 10 years. I was diagnosed with a condition in both eyes were my eyesight would deteriorate and be lost.
In visiting the Marion Eye Center, I was put under the care of Doctor Ahmad and Doctor Olk. It was determined that my vision could be saved and I had my 1st operation at the Marion, Southern Illinois Surgery Center.

My family & I have come to trust the doctors, nurses and technicians at this facility and now count on them for our current and future needs. The convenience and proximity of this facility is a great asset to Carbondale, Marion and surrounding areas. We ask that you carefully consider the future of this facility and keep in mind the good reputation the present management has earned the several people it employs and what a valued establishment and resource it is for the City of Marion.

Respectfully,

David Mueller

March 15, 2011

Marion Eye Centers & Optical

I am currently a patient at the Marion Eye Center. I have been a patient since 1986.

I am writing this letter in opposition to a non-physician Non-healthcare entity trying to undermine the purchase of the Marion Eye Center from Dr. Ahmad.

I have to travel quite a distance and it would be an inconvenience for me to travel elsewhere. Also, I have been a patient for such a long time and I have complete trust in the doctors at Marion Eye Center. This would cause a hardship for many elderly citizens.

Please reconsider and allow Dr. Ahmad to purchase Marion Eye Center in Marion.

Esther Hampler

March 31, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board,

I am in favor of the proposed purchase of the Southern Illinois Surgery Center by the Marion Eye Center. I have had two corneal transplants performed by Dr. Ortiz, and my mother has had two cataract implants performed by Dr. Ahmad at that location.

Prior to becoming a patient with the Marion Eye Center group, I had to travel to St. Louis for my first three eye surgeries. The Marion facility is more convenient for people living in southern Illinois. Surgery in St. Louis meant time, travel, food, and lodging expenses.

Please consider carefully this matter regarding the purchase of the center.

Thank you,

Beth Perry

Wanda Perry

I oppose a non-physician non-healthcare entire to be granted the purchase of Marion Surgery Center. These physicians have been seeing patients and doing surgery for more than 25 years. This would be a major inconvenience for me & other patients. We need these physicians in this area to provide retina services. These physicians have more right to stay where they are - practice as they have been practing.

NAME: Kathy L Rodman

ADDRESS: 1029 Highway 149
Murphysboro, IL 62966

PHONE NUMBER: (618) 684-6094

To whom it may concern:

My father has been a patient of the Marion Eye Centers for the last year, and I can not begin to tell you how great the doctors, nurses, and support staff have been to him. The convince of the locations are a life savor, my mother is a senior citizen and she is my fathers' primary care giver which includes driving. So for the centers to be within an hours drive is really helpful. Not only are the centers close, my father has built a trusting relationship with the doctors and staff. I mentioned my parents are senior citizens, and as we all know they are on a fixed income. Well, the doctors have a plan with my father so that he can receive optical care without draining his funds. If an outside entity takes over, are they going to care if my father can see?, or are they going to worry about the bill? I think we all know the answer to that!!!! I support Dr. Ahmad owning the Marion Surgery Center because he and the other doctors and nurses have worked hard to establish a friendly and effective work environment.

Thank You,

Jannell Robinson

March 16, 2011

Dear Sirs:

My husband, Mike Rawson, and myself, Gail Rawson, have been seeing Dr. Ortiz for many years and appreciate being able to see a physician with his expertise so close to where we reside. My elderly mother, Neva Isbell, has been a patient for many years with both Dr. Ortiz and Dr. Ahmad, and has received the highest quality of care. If these physicians are no longer in this area, none of us will be able to travel to where they will be located to very easily and travelling would be very inconvenient for us patients.

By going through with having a non-physician nonhealthcare group purchase the Marion Eye Centers from underneath Dr. Ahmad, would create loss of jobs in our community as well as revenue. Retina services are a necessity in this area on a daily basis.

Dr. Ortiz and Dr. Ahmad are both highly respected in the community for their expertise and patient care, and to lose such distinguished doctors is unthinkable.

Please reconsider and let Dr. Ahmad go through with his purchase of these eye centers so continued good care can continue in our area.

Sincerely,

Mike & Gail Rawson

Mike and Gail Rawson

6600 Day Road

Carbondale,IL 62902

March 16, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing this letter in response to the possible purchase of the Marion Eye Care Center by a prospective entity other than Dr. Ahmad. It is my understanding that Dr. Ahmad has signed a letter of intent to purchase the building presently housing the Marion Eye Center and cannot imagine that support would not be generated in support of Dr. Ahmad.

I am currently a patient of Dr. Otiz who is a member of Dr. Ahmad's excellent staff. The location of the Marion Eye Center is not only conveniently located for me but I am sure for many of the Center's patients.

Dr Ahmad has operated this facility for 25 years. This has certainly provided jobs and income for the Marion community plus excellent eye care for people in your community as well as surrounding areas. I am sure that the employees currently working at this facility would appreciate your support.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Best regards,

Tommy Decker

This is very inconvient to the patients as well as the doctors.
I wish you would consider the patients on this matter.

NAME: Carol Green
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 65a
Murphysboro, Il. 62966
PHONE NUMBER: 618-521-4316

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EUNICE LAND
4775 LICK CREEK RD
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For all the above,
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To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

Marion City Council
1102 Tower Sq
Marion IL 62959

Dear Council Members,

I oppose selling the Marion Eye Center to anyone other than the present Drs! They have done so much for Southern IL. I've had procedures done by Dr Ahmad & Dr Umana! They are the greatest. I've had Drs in St Louis telling me how great my cataract look & they want to know who did it. I've also had eyelid surgery. Please don't sell to or allow a sale to a non-physician non-healthcare entity. People all over Southern Illinois come to these Drs & spend money in Marion! There would be no retina Dr available on a daily basis. They employ a lot of people here & it will mean a loss of a great many jobs & revenue; especially if they decide to move several offices. We don't want to go to St Louis, Evansville, Cape Girardeau etc, Please! Think! So many people will not be coming to Marion. This practice has helped the Marion reputation!

NAME: Kitty Scarlett

ADDRESS: 2952 Brush Rd
New Burnside IL 62832

PHONE NUMBER: 618-542-8654

3/21/11

Dear Sirs.

I have been a patient of Marion Eye Centers + Optical for 30 years and their doctors are the best in the world and we are lucky to have them in Southern Illinois so we don't have to drive to St. Louis to get eye care." travel out of the State. I have never heard any bad remarks concerning the service of the company.

I hope and pray this problem is solved and we can continue to receive excellent eye service in the future.

Thank You

Clarence Sexton

10943 N DuQuoin St

Benton, IL 62812

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Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. • Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D.
Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. • Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D.
Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

I am satisfied with all of the staff at the Marion Eye Center especially Dr. Umana and Dr. Ahmad. I would like for everything to stay as it is. P.J. Perschbacher

PJ PERSCHBACHER

118 WATERS BOX 211

JOHNSTON CITY, IL 62951

We are writing this letter to ask for your support. As you know Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Umana and more recently Dr. Olk have been seeing patients and doing surgery in Marion for more than 25 years. Recently the Marion Surgery Center had come up for sale and Dr. Ahmad had signed a letter of intent to purchase it in order for our surgeons to do surgery there and to add additional retina services. A non-physician non-healthcare entity is presently trying to undermine that purchase and has applied to the Illinois Health Planning Board for a certificate of need. If this purchase and certificate is approved the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center and the newly hired retina surgeons will be forced to do surgery out of the Marion area, and we believe that our patients which are very happy with their surgeon will then also need to travel out of the area for surgery. If this is of concern to you as a patient and member of the community we are asking that you write a letter opposing this certificate. Our surgeons and staff would truly appreciate your support by writing a letter of opposition and returning it in the enclosed envelope. You may include any of the reasons listed below or any other objections you may have.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to the facility the doctors operates in because of his experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

We apologize that the time frame for you response is needed as soon as possible. We also encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. at Marion City Council Chambers located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion.

Thank you for your support.

March 19, 2011

To the Marion City Counsel Chamber:

In regard to the opposition regarding the purchase of the SCA building by the Marion Eye Center we would like to comment that the Marion Eye Center has been a place that is convenient to go when we have had eye problems corrected either through corrective lenses following very capable examiners or 'surgeries' for glaucoma and cataracts. If not for these surgeries one of us would be totally blind. The convenience to Marion Eye Center has limited our visits that would have otherwise taken up a whole day to travel. Our necessary visits amount to 1 or 2 days a month each year for the past 6 years. Please allow the sale!

Rebecca Wharry

Doris Pierce
Rebecca Duane Stevens

Jackie D. Wharry
214 Wilcox Ave
Zeigler IL 62999

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-654-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Carterville
1-618-985-9983

Centralia
1-618-532-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Flora
1-618-662-3202

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
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Marion
1-800-344-7058

McLeansboro
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Metropolis
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Mt. Vernon
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Murphysboro
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Nashville
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Pinckneyville
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Salem
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Sparta
1-618-443-2020

Steeleville
1-618-965-2020

Vandalia
1-618-283-7100

Vienna
1-618-658-2195

West Frankfort
1-618-937-2442

Offices - Missouri

Cape Girardeau
1-573-651-5200

Charleston
1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Faisel Ahmad, M.D. • Omar Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D.
Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Dirk Bochner, O.D. • Micah Brasel, O.D. • Dolly Campbell, O.D
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Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

CLARA ELDER
RT 3 BOX 261
GOLCONDA, IL 62938

To Our Loyal Patients:

This letter is to clarify a misunderstanding some may have gotten from our letter of last week. **The Marion Eye Center is not for sale, nor will we be closing.** We have served the community for the last 30 years and plan to serve it far into the future.

The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

An attorney in Marion, who is not our friend, has tried to undermine our purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption. If this attorney who is certainly not our friend is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. We believe this to be a detriment to the patients and our community for the following reasons.

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the area
- Patients will travel to another facility where the doctors operate because they trust their experience and integrity
- Lack of retina services vitally needed in the area on a daily basis
- Ownership and decision making by a non-healthcare entity
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

The Illinois Health Planning Board has scheduled a hearing to get feedback from the community. We encourage you to attend the public hearing Tuesday April 5, 10:00 a.m., at Marion City Council Chamber located at 1102 Tower Square, Marion, Illinois. If you can't attend but would like to write a letter of opposition and return it in the enclosed envelope, it would be truly appreciated.

To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

please send form again
Mrs. Closed it Clara Elder

MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-833-8359

Benton
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Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Faisel Ahmad, M.D. • Omar Ahmad, M.D. • Ukeme Umana, M.D. • George Ortiz, M.D. • Meth Linwong, M.D. Robert Kippenbrock, O.D. • Mark Barlow, O.D. • Michael Billings, O.D. • Dirk Bochnor, O.D. • Micah Brasel, O.D. • Dolly Campbell, O.D William Fix, O.D. • Lisa Hager, O.D. • Debra Hall, O.D • Brenda Hutchison, O.D. • Michael Kalaher, O.D • Rakhi Patel, O.D. Mollie Raddatz, O.D. • Emily Schwengel, O.D. • Rachel Shewmake, O.D. • Emily Skibo, O.D. • Emily Smith, O.D. • Robert Smith, O.D. Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Sheila Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

HAZEL WEBB
13305 LAKEVIEW DR
CREAL SPRINGS, IL 62922

To whom it may Concern we need, this center to stay here for our Marion eye center please help the seniors keep it here. we have not the money or transportation to go out of town, these is a very needed business for are town of Marion.
Hazel B Webb

To Our Loyal Patients:

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The previous letter was regarding the surgery center in Marion (SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center), where our surgeons have performed surgery in the past is for sale. When the surgery center came up for sale, it was our intention to purchase it so that our patients in the Marion and surrounding area, could have surgery performed close to home. With the addition of two retina surgeons, it was also our goal to expand our retina services in the area, which are vitally needed.

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Mrs. Hazel B. Webb
13305 Lakeview Dr.
Creal Springs, IL 62922

- Inconvenience to the patient
- Patients having to travel outside the
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To the many that have already returned their letters, thank you so much for your support.

March 17, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

The aspect of the Marion Surgery Center closing would be a great loss for this area. Not only for the patients, but the loss of jobs and revenue in the community.

As a former patient, having eye surgery at this location, the convience for me was a great asset. I was required to visit the surgeon a few hours after the surgery so he could see if everything looked normal. Had I traveled from this area, I could not have gone home and waited there. What would I have done for four or five hours awaiting my appointment later that day if I had to travel out of this area?

Please remember all the good that this facility does for the area people when making your decision.

Respectfully,
Hobart Brown

Paul & Marilyn McRoy
1402 Manning St apt 6
Murphysboro, Il 62966-2072
March 20, 2011

Marion Eye Centers
P. O. Box 1178
Marion, Il 62959-9938

Dear Sirs:

The need for you to keep your office in Marion. Paul has doctored with your office before 1986. He had his first cataract surgery in 1986. We are now 76 and 80 years old. Paul doesn't drive any longer and Marilyn doesn't drive long distances. Paul has a retina problem & Dr Olk sees him here. It would be very very inconvenient if we did not have your office in Marion. I pray that you will be able to retain your office there in Marion.

Sincerely

Marilyn McRoy

Paul McRoy

To Whom It May Concern:

In regards to the sale of The Marion Surgical Center, we respectfully request it be sold to The Marion Eye Center rather than a non-medical entity such as an attorney.

4/25/2011

Kaari Humphrey
600 West Freeman Street
Apartment 6
Carbondale, IL 62901

3/30/11

RE: Marion Surgery Center

To Whom It May Concern:

We are extremely upset that Marion Surgery Center may be sold, forcing them to leave that site.

If the Surgery Center is gone, we would be forced to travel to St Louis (approx. 2 hrs) or Belleville (approx 1½ hrs). Many people in our area will have the same problem.

In our opinion, it would be totally unfair to take this Center from us – we would be forced to find other doctors/surgeons that we could feel confident in getting excellent care and service.

We do not know of any other Centers in the area (Carbondale, Marion) for us.

We know Attorneys are important, however, patients with health issues are more important in this situation than an Attorney's office.

Loss of this would not be good for the Community – including loss of jobs and loss of revenue.

NAME: Robert & Loretta Schuette

ADDRESS: 11890 Murphysboro Rd,
Steeleville, IL 62288

PHONE NUMBER: 618-965-3248

April 13. 2011

Marion Eye Centers & Optical
P. O. Box 1178
Marion, IL 62959-9938

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to clarify my position on the purchase of the Marion Eye Centers & Optical. I have been a patient of Dr. Umana's for many years. I am completely in agreement for the center to be purchased by Dr. Ahmad in order for the surgeons to provide services there. I am totally unsupportive of a non-physician, non-healthcare entity presently trying to undermine that purchase and their having anything to do with it for that matter. Not only are the doctors at the Marion Eye Centers & Optical some of the best in their field and assets to our community but many patients like me are well established there and would prefer not to have to find other physicians or follow our own physicians to other establishments that may or may not offer the range of services that are offered at Marion Eye Centers & Optical.

Other reasons I am opposed to a certificate of need applied for by a non-physician, non-healthcare entity in addition to patient inconvenience are as follows:

-Patients having to travel outside the area for care now provided in a well-rounded approach currently in a convenient location.

-Patients should not have to travel for surgeries and incur extra expense in seeking continuation of services or new services from their established provider when those could be provided here.

-Retina services are essential to be provided in a timely manner. Marion Eye Centers & Optical now provide those services. Not only would additional travel & expense be incurred by the patient but a lack of area retinal services puts patients at an unnecessary and grave risk.

-Loss of jobs and loss of revenue for are area should not be our direction for the future. Promotion of growth of services such as the surgery center, to attract future physicians and patients is another positive attribute to this area. Many future caregivers come specifically to train with the current physicians simply because of their excellent reputations.

-Last but certainly not least, I cannot and will never willingly support ownership and decision making in a healthcare setting by a non-healthcare entity. Physicians should decide the treatments and needs of their patients based on their education and standards of practice. Their decisions should not be dictated by any other than their patient's requests and the patient's personal situations. The physician, not big business, holds all the pieces of patient information and is trained to act according to professional regulations. In my opinion, non-healthcare entities pressure physicians and staff with bottom lines and patient care inevitably declines. Again my opinion, but non-health care entities should stay in non-healthcare arenas. Let physicians look to settle their bottom line in accordance with patient care they can provide and their own conscience.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I trust that you will please consider the information presented above and that you will act in support of the Marion Eye Centers & Optical and Dr. Ahmad as well as the other physicians in the current practice who all provide excellent and convenient patient care. I hope this letter is not too late and I apologize for the delay in returning my response.

Sincerely,

Diana Campbell

Diana Campbell, patient

3.28-11

The surgery Center Should Be
Own/Ran By a Medical Doctor
that Has patients Best Interest
first not Money, a M.D Knows
what is Best for pts & that's what
needs to Be done, Lawyer dont
need to Be deciding what is Best
for patients having any Kind of
Surgery. SX Center needs to
Be in under a physicans directions
not a Lawyers Thankyou

Jack C. Neely

3-28-11

In Regards to Surgery Center
I feel that licensed physician
should be owner/operator of
Surgery Center not some lawyer
that won't have the knowledge
+ pt care as first interest
+ I have had many family
members have surgery then +
hope to continue + to keep Repetable
person working at the Surgery Center

John N Healy

3-28-11

The Surgery Center Should Be Own/Ran By a Medical Doctor that Has patients Best Interest first not Money, a M.D. Knows what is Best for pts & that's what needs to Be done, Lawyer dont need to Be deciding what is Best for patients having any Kind of Surgery. SX Center needs to Be in under a physicans directions not a Lawyers Thankyou

Lisa J Healy

3-28-11

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not a Lawyers. Thank you

Matthew Healy

Regards to Surgery Center at Marion Ill.

I feel it should Be owned

By a practicy M.D. with the

legal Credentials who has taken

oath to do the Best for patient Care

no money first & knows what is

Best for pt Care & this would Be

Best for all patients & to keep a

good work place & keep job in

Marion.

Kathlyn

Healy

Regards to Surgery Center at Marion Ill.

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marion.

Makayla N. Healy

Regards to Surgery Center at Marion.
I feel it should Be owned
By a practicing M.D. with the
legal Credentials who has taken
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No money first + Know what is
Best for pt Care + this would be
Best for all patients + to keep a
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Marion. Louise York

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Marion.

Gerald York

3-28-11

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Surgery. SC Center needs to
Be in under a physicians directions
not a Lawyers Thankyou

Sharon Butler

To the surgery center board,

I have been informed that the Marion surgery center is for sale. It is also my understanding that Marion Eye Center and attorney Osman are competing to buy it. Clearly a non medical person like Osman is not a good choice. Therefore I am requesting the board to vote against the sale to Osman for better patient care.

Sincerely,

Name: Bob & Joan
Address: 470 County Rd 8401 256
Phone: tele 417-0811
West Plains MO 65775

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I have been informed that the Marion surgery center is for sale. It is also my understanding that Marion Eye Center and attorney Osman are competing to buy it. Clearly a non medical person like Osman is not a good choice. Therefore I am requesting the board to vote against the sale to Osman for better patient care.

Sincerely,

Name: Elanna L. Bradley
Address: 615 Ellis Blvd Ellis Grove IL. 62241
Phone: 618-859-4191

Elanna L. Bradley

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Sincerely,

Name: Chris Bradley
Address: 615 Ellis Blvd Ellis Grove Il. 62241
Phone: 618-859-4191

Christopher Bradley

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Sincerely,

Name: Patty Reid
Address: 805 6th St Chester IL
Phone: 618-826-4937

Patty Reid

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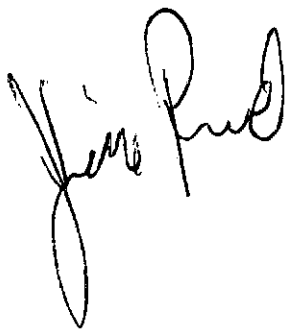
Sincerely,

Name: Jim Reid
Address: 805 6th Chester IL
Phone: 6188264937



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Sincerely,

Name: Ricky D. Wofford
Address: 216 Dixie DR
Phone: Chester IL 62233
573-513 1065 cell

To the surgery center board,

I have been informed that the Marion surgery center is for sale. It is also my understanding that Marion Eye Center and attorney Osman are competing to buy it. Clearly a non medical person like Osman is not a good choice. Therefore I am requesting the board to vote against the sale to Osman for better patient care.

Sincerely,

Name: Angie Wofford
Address: 216 Dixie - Chester
Phone: 979 0403
573)

To Whom it may Concern,

I Feel that any medical Facility should stay in The area So Patients can be seen and treated with out having to go Some where else. Dr Ahmad offers a good service that is convenient for the patients and Keeps Jobs in the area.

NAME: Floyd R. Thurman

ADDRESS: 300 N 7th St 1st 507

Murphysboro, Illinois 62966

PHONE NUMBER: 618-565-2548

Dr. Ahmad should be able to aquire the Bldg in Marion Ill, as the drive to Mt Vernon can be a hardship to elderly patients especially in the winter.
The drive North can be unpleasant if the Car A/C is not working in Dec or August.
When my wife had her operation up north I had just hurt my back and was allmost not able to make it.

NAME: Russell S + Nancy C. Brinker
ADDRESS: 1310 S Rocky Comfort Road

PHONE NUMBER: 618-893-4789

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to ask that you allow Dr Ahmad to purchase the Southern Illinois Surgery Center. Dr Ahmad has worked in Southern Illinois for many years with one goal, to provide a specialized service that one would normally need to travel to a metropolitan area to receive. Dr Ahmad and his team treat patients of all ages but it is our senior citizens who I feel need him the most. Some of these patients don't have the means to travel to St Louis, Paducah or farther to seek treatment for their eyes. Allowing Dr Ahmad to purchase this surgery center will enable him and his team to continue to care for the needs of the people of Southern Illinois. Not only will this provide more jobs for this community it will ensure that our children, parents and grandparents have specialized health care services readily available. Why anyone would want to discourage and even try to stop someone who has done so much for this and the surrounding area is incomprehensible. We have lost so many great doctors. Please don't let us lose another.

Sincerely,

Becky Logan

26362 State Route Z
St. Mary, MO 63673
March 16, 2011

To Whom it May Concern:

It has recently been brought to my attention of the future sale of the Marion Eye Center located in Marion, IL. In regards to this I believe it would be a tremendous mistake to allow a non-physician non-healthcare entity to purchase such a facility. This is not a factory that can be purchased, changed and run by people that are not in the healthcare business. Eyesight is too delicate and important to risk the loss of this facility owned and operated by physicians.

As you can see I live in Missouri. My husband and I have traveled about an hour and forty-five minutes to arrive at the Marion office. If this office is sold and the surgeons are dispersed elsewhere, and I am told that their closest surgery center would then be in Mt. Vernon, this would be entirely too far for us to travel. The professional care and concern that I received from this office, from both the doctors and staff, should not be lost because of a buying transaction that would put the surgery center in the hands of non-healthcare investors.

Please consider the impact on the doctors, staff and community if the loss of this facility takes place. Healthcare provision is best when the ownership belongs to the healthcare providers, they are the ones who care.

Sincerely,

Jo Flieg

Roger C. Medlen

602 S. Taylor Drive

Carbondale, IL 62901

March 16, 2011

To Whom it May Concern,

We oppose the Certificate of Need by a Non-Physician Non-Healthcare Entity to purchase Marion Eye Centers of Carbondale and surrounding area. My Mom (Alma Medlen) has been a patient of Dr. Ortiz and recently (12/10) had Eye Surgery performed by Dr. Ortiz. My Mom is 86 years old and lives in Carterville, IL. Mom previously was attending an Eye Surgeon at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, MO. Because of the travel time and arrangements having to be made by myself and other family members to take her to St. Louis for her exams etc. Mom requested a Referral to the Southern Illinois area. Her Surgeon recommended Dr. Ortiz in Carbondale and Mom has been seeing him for 2 years. This Certificate to purchase Marion Eye Centers of Carbondale and the surrounding areas would be an Extreme Inconvenience and Leading us to Travel Outside the Area. All things considered if this happens we would go back to Barnes Hospital in St. Louis.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Medlen (Son of Patient Alma L. Medlen)

Roger Medlen
602 S Taylor Dr.
Carbondale, IL 62901

J. KEITH HOWARD
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

200 EAST DIAZ
HERRIN, ILLINOIS 62948

(618) 988-8216
FAX (618) 988-8329

April 4, 2011

Illinois Health Planning Board
Springfield, IL

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing this letter to support Dr. Maqbool Ahmad's purchase of the Surgical Care Affiliates, Southern Illinois Surgery Center in Marion, Illinois.

I have known and worked with Dr. Ahmad for several years and believe him to be completely dedicated to providing the best care possible for his patients. Additionally, Dr. Ahmad is an astute business man with the financial resources and the business knowledge and skills to provide a well run, state of the art surgery center for both the patients and doctors of the area.

Sincerely,

J. Keith Howard, CPA