

DOCTOR
LETTERS

(78)

Duane Morris®

FIRM and AFFILIATE OFFICES

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JUN 03 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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HO CHI MINH CITY

June 3, 2011

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
Attn: Board Staff
525 West Jefferson Street
2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: **Application for Certificate of Exemption, Surgery Center of Southern Illinois, Marion (Project # or Exemption #E-001-11)**

Members of the Board:

We represent Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. regarding his opposition to project E-001-11, the application for a change of ownership exemption involving the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois, Marion ("Marion Surgery Center"). Enclosed please find **letters of opposition from over 75 physicians** from this community against the proposed Change of Ownership.

In both the comments he presented at the public hearing and in his written submission to this Board, Dr. Ahmad clearly expressed that he is not comfortable working for a medical practice that is owned, operated, and controlled by an attorney. To ensure that he was not alone in this opinion, Dr. Ahmad inquired of other physicians within the community whether they, too, had concerns regarding the ownership, operation, and control of the surgery center being transferred to a non-physician. The response is notable and the messages provided by these physicians are clear:

1. Physicians are uncomfortable with a medical practice being owned, operated, and controlled by a non-physician;
2. These physicians believe the community would be better served if the Marion Eye Center were to continue to provide care at the Surgery Center; and
3. That transfer of ownership, and therein control, to an individual who is not licensed to practice medicine would immediately

DUANE MORRIS LLP

190 SOUTH LASALLE STREET, SUITE 3700 CHICAGO, IL 60603-3433

PHONE: +1 312 499 6700 FAX: +1 312 499 6701

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
June 3, 2011
Page 2

jeopardize the future viability of this surgery center, and thereby impede access to healthcare in this community.

The physicians speak openly about the effect it would have upon their patients to have to travel out of town to obtain the services that the Marion Eye Center currently provides at the Marion Surgery Center. Physicians present their own discomfort at the prospects of utilizing a healthcare facility that was owned, operated, and controlled by an individual who is not a healthcare professional. They also discuss inclination to discourage their patients to utilize such a facility. Lastly, these physicians uniformly speak of the respect and admiration they maintain for Dr. Maqbool Ahmad, his colleagues, and the quality work they perform through the Marion Eye Center.

This is not, however, simply an issue of professional preference. It is also a question of law. On March 23, 2011, we submitted correspondence to the Board's general counsel, Frank W. Urso, regarding the Corporate Practice of Medicine Doctrine in Illinois. Simply put, the prohibition against the corporate practice of medicine prohibits anyone who is not licensed to practice medicine from owning, operating, and controlling a medical practice. Only one exception has ever been acknowledged to the prohibition against the corporate practice of medicine, and that was for hospitals. The basic premise behind the prohibition against the corporate practice of medicine is the public policy concern that medical decisions should be controlled by physicians and not by non-medical corporations. The physicians of this community clearly share the concern of what effect allowing an attorney to own a medical practice would have.

In addition to the over 2,000 letters of opposition from patients of the Marion Eye Center (previously submitted), we hope the Board will take into consideration the opposition of over 75 physicians who have taken the time to voice their opposition to this project. Their opposition stems from their discomfort with the notion of an attorney owning, operating, and controlling a medical practice, from their appreciation of the importance of the Marion Eye Centers and its role within this community, and from the importance of ensuring uninterrupted access to healthcare within the community in which they live and practice.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark J. Silberman

Enclosures

May 27, 2011

Paul Berube, M.D.
3711 Illinois Avenue
Carbondale, IL 62901

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Board Members:

I understand that an attorney has applied for a certificate of need exemption for the Southern Illinois Surgery Center. I would like to express my concern regarding this transfer of ownership.

I am an OB GYN specialist in Carbondale, Illinois. It is well known that the Marion Eye Center has made a strong commitment to the community for many, many years. They serve the elderly and the indigent and make it possible for patients to have surgery close to home. To lose these vitally needed services especially in these difficult economic times would be a disservice to all.

I would like to make it very clear that I would not refer my patients to this surgery center or perform surgery there if it is owned and operated by this attorney. This surgery center should be owned and operated by a medical professional with patient's interest in mind and not by someone totally motivated by profit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul E. Berube M.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

**Albert G. Bledig, MD
1405 Locust St.
Eldorado, IL. 62930
(618) 273-3321
Fax (618) 273-3322**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in support of the positions of the eye surgeons of Marion Eye Center and their concerns regarding this property.

Sincerely,



Albert G. Bledig, MD

rs

Michael K. Delaney, MD
Delaney Clinic
3331 West DeYoung Street, Ste. 208
Marion, IL 62959
618-997-4012 ` 618-997-4014 fax

April 1, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

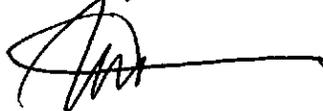
It has come to my attention that the Marion Surgical Center located in Marion, Illinois has been offered for sale.

I have practiced medicine in southern Illinois for more that 30 years as an Otolaryngologist. Greater than 90% of my surgical practice is out patient, thus my interest in the Marion Surgical Center.

Two entities are presently interested in the purchase; one a physician based medical group and the other a law firm with a practice dedicated to personal injury. If the law firm is given the privilege of making this purchase I would be very reluctant to continue any association with a surgical center owned and operated by a personal injury law firm. I do not feel it would be much of a stretch for me to attribute similar sentiments to my peers.

In summary, I would very much like to see the Marion Surgical Center owned and operated by individuals dedicated to providing quality medical care in the area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Delaney', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael K. Delaney, MD

EDILBERTO S. del CARMEN, M. D.

U R O L O G Y
1001 Chestnut Street
Murphysboro, Illinois 62966
Telephone 687-1371

March 19, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

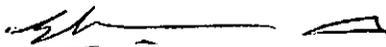
I am writing this letter because I am concerned about the future of the Marion Eye Center. I have recently learned that Dr. Ahmad has signed a letter of intent to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. I am a patient of Dr. George Ortiz and very satisfied with the care and services that I have received in the past.

I have been informed that a non-physician, non-healthcare entity would also like to purchase the surgery center and has applied for a certificate of need from the Illinois Health Planning Board. It is my hope, that the Health Planning Board listens to the citizens of the community and deny their request.

Dr. Ahmad and his colleagues have been practicing in Southern Illinois for many years and is a great asset to the communities that they serve. Many patients, myself included, are older and worry about the inconvenience of having to travel outside of the area for care should my physician be assigned to another location. This is made even more difficult for those who can no longer drive and must depend on others for transportation.

Our geographic area has suffered the loss of many jobs in the community over the past several years due to the economy. If Dr. Ahmad is successful in his bid for the Marion Eye Center, there will be an increase in available jobs and services for the community as well as an increase of revenue. I am not sure that will be an option if a non-healthcare entity is granted the certificate of needed and is allowed to take over the Marion Surgery Center. Our community needs to continue to move forward and grow.

Sincerely,



Edilberto DelCarmen, M.D.

Dr. Meenakshi Desai
3000 Broadway
Mt Vernon IL 62864
618-244-3200

May 27, 2011

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson St
Second Floor
Springfield IL 627691

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

It is my understanding that an attorney is trying to purchase the Southern Illinois Surgery Center and has applied for a certificate of need exemption. Being an ophthalmologist myself, I would not even consider working in a center owned or operated by an attorney. I am very much opposed to a healthcare facility being owned by an attorney and therefore oppose this exemption.

I appreciate your kind consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Meenakshi Desai

Meenakshi Desai, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Craig W. Furry MD
Ellen Chapman-Pogue APN, FNP
20 North Washington Street
P O Box 1080
Du Quoin IL 62832
618-542-2129
618-542-2903

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Marion Surgery Center

I have recently become aware that The Marion Surgery Center has been offered for sale. I have learned the sale may be to a lawyer. I don't feel this sale is appropriate and will not refer patients there who may need surgery.

Thanks for your consideration of this information.

Sincerely,



Craig W. Furry, MD

CWF/ksb



Southern
Illinois University
School of Medicine

To: Surgery Center Certifying Board

RE: Surgery Center of Southern Illinois

Dear Board Member:

First let me say that this letter is not meant to show any disrespect for members of the legal profession. I have known many fine individuals in the legal profession. I just want to point out the facts concerning the current sentiment of most physicians. Physicians are running scared. I have never seen such low morale among doctors. There exists a foreboding sense of gloom and helplessness among physicians regarding the future of medicine. We live in a society where lawmakers that make the laws are often lawyers themselves. This has lead to society seeing government organizations as entities that can be compared to the fox guarding the chicken coop.

I have practiced in Southern Illinois for the past 35 years. Over the years it has been my pleasure to work with physicians who utilize the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois. The current owners of the Center have worked hard to develop a medical facility with a superb reputation. When the surgeon and other medical professionals take a case to the operating room, the only thing on their mind should be "what is the very best that I can do for this patient". The Legal and Medical fields are two of the most honored and respected professions worldwide. With the U.S. being a more litigious society there has been a build up of tension between attorneys and doctors. This has caused feelings of mistrust and lack of mutual respect. By the doctrine of *res ipsa loquitur* it only makes sense that physicians would not want a lawyer scrutinizing every move made in medical arena. The level of distrust physicians have against attorneys cannot be overstated. Obviously the surgeon wants the Surgical Center owner to have the medical professional's best interests at heart. Please make your decision based on what is the very best for the patient. Do not set up a medical facility that from the beginning may be doomed to failure by an adversarial owner/ operator partnership. I think it's in the public's best interest that the Center not have an attorney as the owner.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerry Goddard, M.D.' with a flourish at the end.

Jerry Goddard, M.D.
SIU Family Medicine

SIU Family Medicine Residency Program

www.siumed.edu/cfcp

Southern Illinois Family Medicine - Mail Code 6815

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

305 W. Jackson Street, Suite 200

Carbondale, Illinois 62901-1474

618 | 536-6621 Fax: 618 | 453-1102

www.siumed.edu



FAMILY MEDICAL CENTER

101 North Walnut Street

Pinckneyville, Illinois 62274

May 26, 2011

TO: Surgery Center Board For Certificate of Need
Springfield, Illinois

RE: Marion Surgery Center

Dear Sirs:

It has come to my attention that the Marion Surgery Center is up for sale and one of the potential buyers is a lawyer. I would recommend that the surgery center be under the control of a medical person who has more familiarity with operating a medical facility as opposed to strictly having a profit motive. I would recommend that a nonmedical person not be in charge of or own the surgery center.

Sincerely,

J. Gregg Fozard, M.D., FAAFP



MEMORIAL HOSPITAL OF CARBONDALE

03/29/11

To: Who so ever this may concern:

Subject: MARION SURGICAL CENTER

As a medical professional, I very strongly feel and believe that a surgery center should not be owned or operated by a non medical entity. The public and local community will be best served if the facility is operated by an MD.

Thank You,

Raj Gulati, MD
Memorial Hospital of Carbondale
405 W. Jackson Street
Carbondale, Il. 62901
618-713-7488
618-529-9125

May 26, 2011

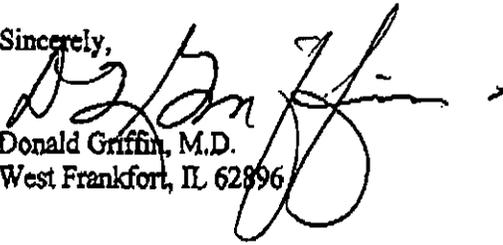
IL Health Facilities Planning Board
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to oppose the Certificate of Need Exemption for the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois. This facility should not be owned and operated by an attorney. It is not in the best interest of the patients and the surrounding community.

I hope that you will consider this before making your decision.

Sincerely,


Donald Griffin, M.D.
West Frankfort, IL 62896

MALE MEDICAL & RESEARCH CENTER
HAN M. HANAFY, M.D.
CERTIFIED AMERICAN BOARD OF UROLOGY
404 N. COMMERCIAL ST. BOX 783
HARRISBURG, ILLINOIS 62946
TOLL FREE 1-800-562-8624 or (618) 252-7424
FAX (618) 252-0737
www.malemedicalclinic.com



March 15, 2011

To: IL Health Planning Board

It came to my attention news about the recent application by a non-physician non-healthcare entity for purchase of the Marion Surgery Center against the Marion Eye Center group, where it has been very convenient for patients to have eye surgery and recently and much needed retina services to the many patients at the convenient and local surgical facility.

There is no question ownership by the non-healthcare entity will jeopardize this and puts the future of the Marion Surgery Center in unknown future entity.

As a patient myself and local practicing physician for over 30 years, I have heard nothing but praise and full satisfaction for Marion Eye Center's services.

I hope you will give this serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Han M. Hanafy, M.D.
Certified American Board of Urology
HMH/rt

HAN M. HANAFY, M.D.
404 N. COMMERCIAL
HARRISBURG, IL 62946
(618) 252-7424

River to River

HEART  GROUP

Frank Bleyer, MD
Richard Stewart, MD

M.T. Joseph, MD
Kathy Dodd, PA-C

Parag Madhani, MD
Meshia Reed, PA-C

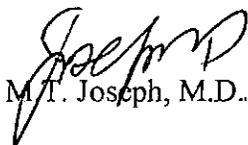
Walter Parham, MD

April 1, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I understand that Marion Surgery Center is for sale. I would prefer that the surgery center be purchased by a group of doctors rather than an attorney. I'm very much opposed to the sale of a healthcare facility to an attorney.

Sincerely,


M.T. Joseph, M.D.



1350 Cedar Court
Carbondale, IL 62901

Board Certified Specialists
In Nephrology

Randy G. Cowart M.D.

Muhammad Kamran M.D., F.A.C.P.

Board Certified Specialists
Assistants

Mary Rosenbauer PA-C

Diana Moreland PA-C

Laura Kidd PA-C

Acute Kidney Failure

Chronic Kidney Diseases

Hypertension

Diabetic Kidney Disease

Kidney Stone Prevention

Proteinuria

Hematuria

Hemodialysis

Peritoneal Dialysis

Kidney Transplant

Acid Base Disturbances

Electrolyte Disturbances

To

State Planning Board

Re: Proposed Surgery Center Sale

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter to express my deep concerns regarding the sale of Surgery Center in Marion. I am a health care provider in Southern Illinois and have been serving this area since 1996. As you know one of the local lawyers is trying to purchase this center and trying to block the sale to the doctors who are already performing surgeries at this center.

I share numerous patients with these surgeons and heard nothing but good about them. They provide excellent care to my patients regardless of their financial/insurance status. My deceased father was also the patient of Dr. Ahmad who performed eye saving surgery on him at this surgery center. I cannot even imagine the hardship patients would have travelling farther distance for their surgery. Like my father, most of these patients are diabetic and they cannot stay fasting for longer then what they already are.

I am also worried what interest a non medical professional would have in buying a surgery center except for making as much money as he can and not worrying about the quality of care and equipment at the center. A medical professional whose practice is dependent on the results of his surgeries would sacrifice some profit for the quality of care and equipment while a non professional won't even realize the need of upgrading equipments until several eyes are gone blind. Surgeons are accountable in the court of law for any wrong doing while a non professional owner can easily put all the blame on surgeon and fire him from center and go on with his business again.

I pray to God and beg the members of Board to put patients interest as the top priority.

Sincerely,

Muhammad Kamran, MD FACP

To Whom This May Concern,

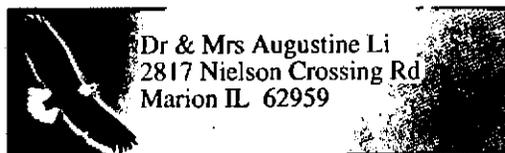
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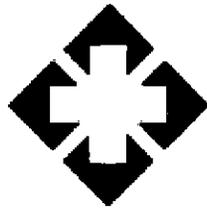
This letter is written in support of Marion Eye Center's effort to purchase the Marion Surgery Center.

Marion Eye Center has been providing very valuable, excellent eye care for many years to the communities in and around Marion. The Marion Surgery Center has been an integral part in the wonderful services provided by the doctors of the Eye Center. It is especially valuable to senior citizens and patients with disabilities who need special assistance travelling outside our community. The Surgery center would certainly keep much needed job opportunities and revenue in our community.

Consideration in favor of this transaction would be deeply appreciated by the people so well served by the Eye Center through the years.

Augustine Li





Pain Care Surgery

108 Airway Drive, Marion, Illinois 62959 | Phone: 618-997-7820 | Fax: 618-997-6721

May 31, 2011

Illinois Health Facilities
And Services Review Board
2nd Floor
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield , IL 62761

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been brought to my attention that you are considering an application from a malpractice attorney to acquire the Southern Illinois Surgery Center.

As a practicing physician and owner of an Ambulatory Surgical Center in Marion, Illinois I am strongly opposed to such an arrangement.

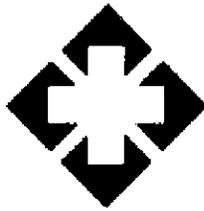
To have any healthcare facility owned and operated by an individual who makes his primary living filing lawsuits against other healthcare providers is a conflict of interest of the most heinous type.

Such an individual would obviously be motivated to portray other providers as substandard, whether they had ever had a suit filed against them or not, simply because he had filed so many lawsuits against various providers. Furthermore, there would also be the obvious temptation to pressure providers for referrals as a means of avoiding future lawsuits.

It is my fervent belief that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board should deny this application.

Sincerely,

Laxmaiah Manchikanti, M.D.



Pain Care Surgery

108 Airway Drive, Marion, Illinois 62959 | Phone: 618-997-7820 | Fax: 618-997-6721

May 31, 2011

Illinois Health Facilities
And Services Review Board
2nd Floor
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield , IL 62761

To Whom It May Concern:

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As a practicing physician and owner of an Ambulatory Surgical Center in Marion, Illinois I am strongly opposed to such an arrangement.

To have any healthcare facility owned and operated by an individual who makes his primary living filing lawsuits against other healthcare providers is a conflict of interest of the most heinous type.

Such an individual would obviously be motivated to portray other providers as substandard, whether they had ever had a suit filed against them or not, simply because he had filed so many lawsuits against various providers. Furthermore, there would also be the obvious temptation to pressure providers for referrals as a means of avoiding future lawsuits.

It is my fervent belief that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board should deny this application.

Sincerely,

Yogesh Malla, M.D.

Sadasivam Modali M.D
10 Butternut Hill Drive
Carbondale, Illinois 62903
Telephone# (618) 549-8194

To,
Illinois Health Planning Board

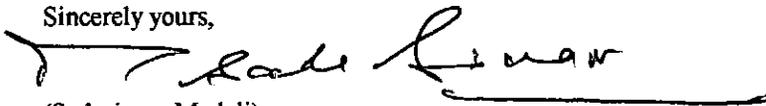
Dear Sir/Madam,

I fully support the Plan of Marion Eye Centers to purchase and own the Marion surgery center from surgical care affiliates. The Marion Eye center has very competent, skilful and compassionate eye surgeons and they have been providing best eye care for many residents of southern Illinois. It will be detriment to all these patients and to community if their services are not available close to home and if patients have to travel out side southern Illinois for eye surgeries. The surgeons of Marion Eye Center perform several types of ophthalmologic procedures and their services are creating lot of jobs and revenue for the community.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sadasivam Modali", written over a horizontal line.

(Sadasivam Modali)
Dated 04/03/2011

Yasoda Modali M.D
10 Butternut Hill Drive
Carbondale, Illinois 62903
Telephone# (618) 549-8194

To,
Illinois Health Planning Board

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a patient and physician, I fully support the Plan of Marion Eye Centers to purchase and own the Marion surgery center from surgical care affiliates.

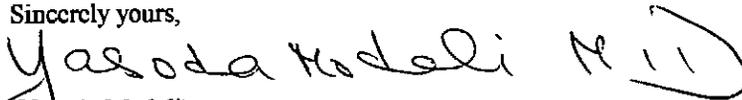
The Marion Eye center has very competent, skilful and compassionate eye surgeons and they have been providing best eye care for many residents of southern Illinois. It will be detriment to all these patients and to community if their services are not available close to home and if patients have to travel out side southern Illinois for eye surgeries.

The surgeons of Marion Eye Center perform several types of ophthalmologic procedures and their services are creating lot of jobs and revenue for the community.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,


(Yasoda Modali)
Dated 04/03/2011

Pramote Anantachai, M.D.

A. PRAMOTE, M.D., S.C

404 Lincoln Drive

Herrin IL 62948

Tel: (618) 997-0166

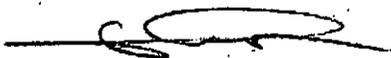
05/03/2011

RE: Marion Surgery Center

To Whom It May Concern :

This is to confirmed that I will continue referral our eyes problems and surgery to Marion Eye Center that has been accessible to our patients with good out come. We have no problem with surgery being performed at new facility . At this time I do not support Certificate of Need Exemption for Marion Surgery Center.

Thank You.



Pramote Anantachai , M.D.

March 21,2011

To the Illinois Health Planning Board,

I have been made aware that the Southern Illinois Surgery Center in Marion is for sale and that a non-healthcare professional or entity is attempting to purchase this facility by applying for a Certificate of Need Exemption. I would like to extend my support to Dr. Ahmad and the surgeons of Marion Eye Center. As a patient, I value their expertise, professionalism, concern for their patients, and overall reputation in the communities they serve. As a fellow healthcare professional, I would feel much more comfortable knowing that they were the owners and operators of this surgery center versus someone more concerned with the bottom line, and I believe most patients would agree with this statement.

Currently, many patients already leave our area to obtain treatment for various health conditions, taking their money to other cities and states. This spending is not only for healthcare, but also for food and lodging, supporting local businesses. Marion could benefit from this financial support of local businesses if the surgeons at Marion Eye Center were allowed to purchase this facility and expand these much needed services in our area.

If the surgeons of Marion Eye Center must leave the Marion area to perform eye surgery, this would mean the loss of local jobs for their support staff. We can not afford to lose employment opportunities in this area. We should also not force their patients to have the inconvenience and added expense of traveling outside this area to receive the services they could offer if given this opportunity to expand.

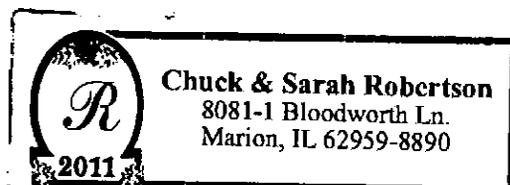
* I would NOT utilize a health care facility that was owned and operated by a group that was not made up of health care professionals, and I would recommend to all of my patients to AVOID such a place as well. These "investors" would not have the best interests of the patients in mind. Their concern would be on profit, whereas health care professionals have the welfare of their patients at heart. They have a responsibility to their patients and a reputation to uphold as a physician.

I ask that you please deny this Certificate of Need Exemption that was requested by the non-healthcare entity that is trying to undermine the purchase of the surgery center by the surgeons of Marion Eye Center.

Cordially,



Dr. Sarah Connell-Robertson



ZAHID SAQIB, M.D.

402 SOUTH PLUM STREET
CARM, ILLINOIS 62821
(618) 384-2226

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 personally and professionally for over 30 years. In those 30 years, I have seen him expand his business largely and provide jobs for hundreds in the surrounding areas. He also conducted a cataract surgery on my late father. I, too, am a proud patient of Dr. Ahmad. He has made it clear over the years that he is capable of running a successful surgery center, and I know, for a fact, that he would continue to do an excellent job if given another surgery center.

I hope that you will sell this center to the man that is certainly qualified to operate it, Dr. Maqbool Ahmad.



Zahid Saqib M.D.

Ahmed Tariq

181 Stone Lake Drive

Makanda, Illinois 62958

April 4th 2011

Subject: Marlon Surgery Center

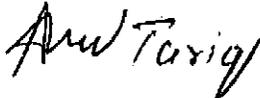
To: Whom it may concern

This letter is in support of issuing a certificate of the need for the surgery center to Dr Maqbool Ahmed and his associates as opposed to some attorney.

In my professional opinion Dr Maqbool Ahmed's experience and expertise will not only help manage the surgery center better, but will also serve the community better than a non medical individual or an organization.

My sincere hope is that concerned authorities will make a note of the above observation and will keep the community's best interest in mind.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ahmed Tariq



Dr. Sarah Tariq

To whom it may Concern

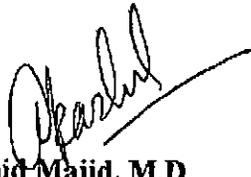
I Abdul R Majid, M.D would like to extend my support to Dr Maqbool Ahmad in the bid to purchase, Marion Surgery Center.

I have known Dr. Ahmad for over 11 years; he is being one, of the well-known healthcare professional desiccated to his service, to his patients from all around Southern Illinois and adjoining areas for over 25 years. He is known for his community service, professional work, serving the people of area.

I am sure with the purchase of Marion surgery center, He will be able to further extent his excellent services to the people of the Southern Illinois.

Thank you

Sincerely,



Abdul Rashid Majid, M.D

Dated: April 4th 2011



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS G.I. SPECIALISTS, LLC

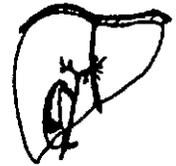
Zahoor A. Makhdoom, M.D., MRCP, AGAF, FASGE

Board Certified Gastroenterology

Gastroenterology / Hepatology

Pancreatobiliary Disease / Nutrition Support

Office: (618) 549-8006 Fax: (618) 549-8434



1100 West Diann Lane
Carbondale, IL 62901

Satellite Office:
Herrin, IL 62948

April 4, 2011

Health South Surgical Center
Attn: Surgical Center Board
Marion, Illinois 62959

Ladies and gentlemen:

We have been informed that the Health South Surgical Center is for sale. It is also our understanding the Marion Eye Center and local attorney Ron Osman are competing to buy the surgical center.

We have performed gastroenterology services at the Health South Surgical Center in the past and appreciated their services to our patients. Recently because of a dearth of gastroenterology care in the Marion and surrounding area we are contemplating a return to Health South Surgical Center.

In view of the current situation, we do not feel that it would be in our best interest to return to Health South Surgical Center with it being managed by an attorney. We are asking the board to reconsider their decision to sell to an attorney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ZAM'.

Zahoor A. Makhdoom, MD, MRCP, AGAF, FASGE

ZAM:mkt

Mohammed Yusuf Mansuri, MD
Shaheda M. Mansuri, MD
508 Canary Lane
Carterville, IL 62918
(618)-985-3024

April 4, 2011

To:

State Planning Board

Re: Proposed Surgery Center Sale

Dear Sir/Madam,

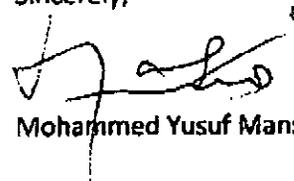
We are writing this letter to express our deep concerns regarding the sale of the Surgery Center in Marion. We are health care providers in Southern Illinois and have been serving this area since 1982. As you know one of the local lawyers is trying to purchase this center and trying to block the sale to the doctors who are already performing surgeries at this center.

We share numerous patients with these surgeons and have heard nothing but good about them. They provide excellent care to our patients regardless of their financial/insurance status. Our deceased parents were also patients of Dr. Maqbool Ahmad. We cannot even imagine the hardship patients would have travelling farther distances for their surgeries. Most of these patients are diabetic and they cannot stay fasting for longer than what they already are.

We are also worried what interest a non medical professional would have in buying a surgery center except for making as much money as he can and not worrying about the quality of care and equipment at the center. A medical professional whose practice is dependent on the results of his surgeries would sacrifice some profit for the quality of care and equipment while a non professional won't even realize the need of upgrading equipments until several eyes are gone blind. Surgeons are accountable in the court of law for any wrong doing while a non professional owner can easily put all of the blame on the surgeon and fire him from the center and go on with his business again.

We pray to God and beg the members of the Board to put our patients' interests as the top priority.

Sincerely,



Mohammed Yusuf Mansuri, MD

Shaheda Mansuri

Shaheda M. Mansuri, MD



Christopher Rural Health
Planning Corporation

CHRISTOPHER GREATER AREA
RURAL HEALTH PLANNING CORPORATION

Administrative Office
P.O. Box 155
4241 Highway 14 West
Christopher, Illinois 62822

Phone: (618)724-2436
Fax: (618)724-2571

KIM MITROKA, PRESIDENT-CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

REA CLINIC/CHRISTOPHER
4241 HIGHWAY 14 WEST • P.O. Box 155
CHRISTOPHER, IL 62822
MEDICAL: (618)724-2401
DENTAL: (618)724-9290
PHARMACY: (618)724-2136
FAX: (618)724-4628

REA CLINIC/BENTON
1-800-408-7351

REA CLINIC/DUQUOIN
119 GAS PLANT ROAD
DUQUOIN, IL 62832
(618)542-8702 • FAX (618)542-8792

REA CLINIC/HERRIN
3303 LOGAN DRIVE
HERRIN, IL 62948
(618)993-5767 • FAX (618)993-4005

CLAY MEDICAL CENTER
201 EAST NORTH AVE • P.O. BOX 619
FLORA, IL 62839
(618)662-8386 • FAX (618)662-4338

CISNE MEDICAL CENTER
RAILROAD & PARK • P.O. BOX 264
CISNE, IL 62823
(618)673-3311 • FAX (618)673-3513

SESSER DENTAL CLINIC
6294 State Hwy 154
SESSER, IL 62884
(618)625-6979 • FAX (618)625-5362

ELDORADO RURAL HEALTH CLINIC
607 4TH STREET
ELDORADO, IL 62930
(618)273-2951 • FAX (618)273-2712

SHAWNEETOWN HEALTH CARE CLINIC
209 N. LINCOLN BLVD. WEST
SHAWNEETOWN, IL 62984
(618)269-3815 • FAX (618)269-3274

HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH CENTER
1-800-408-7351

ROYALTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
300 SOUTH MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 145
ROYALTON, IL 62983
(618)984-2695 • FAX (618)984-2589

ZEIGLER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
MEDICAL & DENTAL FACILITY
27 CIRCLE
ZEIGLER, IL 62999
(618)596-2411 • FAX (618)596-6559

MT. VERNON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
2920 VETERANS MEMORIAL DRIVE
MT. VERNON, IL 62864
(618)244-6544 • FAX (618)244-6577

JOHNSTON CITY COMM. HEALTH CENTER
14410 ROUTE 37
JOHNSTON CITY, IL 62951
(618)983-6911 • FAX (618)983-6913

May 27, 2011

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Ladies and Gentleman of the Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion regarding the purchase of the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois to an attorney. I, like other health-care professionals am concerned about the possibility of having a surgery center which is operated by an attorney.

As primary care physicians, we feel fortunate to have the quality of services that we have available to our patients. Some of the most outstanding of these have been with the surgeons of the Marion Eye Center. As we continue to improve the quality of care in the region, we need to continue to have these services available to the aging community.

I appreciate your time and consideration with my opinion. I believe that I am in agreement with many of the health care providers in our community.

Sincerely,

Patrick L. Riley, MD

Family Medicine

Rea Clinic Du Quoin



Faisal Rashid, MD, FACP

Tammy Pike, NP, CNN

4200 Williamson Place
Mt. Vernon, IL 62884
618.244.7171
Fax: 618.244.8772

www.smgsgroup.com/medicalgroup

May 31, 2011

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Esteemed Board Members:

I am writing to you to address the exemption request that a Marion attorney has filed concerning Southern Illinois Surgery Center. I do not believe granting this exemption will be in the best interest of Marion's patient base or the surrounding community.

The surgeons of the Marion Eye Center have an excellent reputation in the community and with their peers. They have been the primary providers of surgery at this surgery center for many years. If these surgeons do not feel comfortable performing surgery under this possible new ownership then patients will have to travel outside the area. I would also not refer my patients there for surgery and I believe that will be the case of many physicians here in the region.

I respectfully ask that you deny this exemption.

Sincerely,

Faisal Rashid, MD, FACP

FAISAL RASHID, MD, FACP

5-31-11

May 26, 2011

IL Health Facilities Planning Board
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to oppose the Certificate of Need Exemption for the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois. This facility should not be owned and operated by an attorney. It is not in the best interest of the patients and the surrounding community.

I hope that you will consider this before making your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Amar Sawar', written over a horizontal line.

Amar Sawar, M.D.
714 E. Walnut
Carbondale, IL 62901



Southern
Illinois University
School of Medicine

May 27, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I understand that the Marion Surgery Center is for sale and may be bought by a nonmedical person. If this facility is to continue as a medical entity, I feel that it is in the best interest to have it owned and managed by medical personnel. I oppose the sale of the building to a nonmedical person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Smaga" followed by "MD" in a separate, slightly larger and bolder script.

Sharon Smaga, MD

SIU Family Medicine Residency Program

www.siumed.edu/cfcp

Southern Illinois Family Medicine - Mail Code 6815

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

305 W. Jackson Street, Suite 200

Carbondale, Illinois 62901-1474

618 | 536-6621 Fax: 618 | 453-1102

www.siumed.edu



L. NEAL MCCAIN, M.D., F.A.C.S.

GENERAL SURGEON

PO Box 1507 Carbondale, IL 62903-1507
305 West Jackson, Suite 302
Carbondale, IL 62901-1474
(618)529-1770 Fax: (618)529-1777

April 2, 2011

To whom it may concern:

In regards to the Marion Surgery Center I support Dr. Ahmad in his quest to obtain a certificate of need, ownership, and to control the management of this business. After all he and the physicians of his group are the ones who practice medicine at that facility and provide service to the patients who go there.

I am opposed to the attempt by an attorney to buy the facility out from under the doctors that run it. I do not believe it is in the best interest of the patients being served. Common sense and fair application of the laws should prevail over the appearance of political cronyism and shady deals.

Sincerely,

L. Neal McCain, M.D.



MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Faisal 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 Showmake, 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.

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

Cartersville
1-818-985-9983

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1-618-632-1997

Chester
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

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1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Flora
1-618-682-3202

Hartsville
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

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1-618-548-0100

Sparta
1-618-443-2020

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1-618-965-2020

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1-618-283-7100

Vlenna
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1-573-683-2020

Dexter
1-573-624-4584

Poplar Bluff
1-573-686-5866

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

April 4, 2011

IL Health Planning Board

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

This letter is in reference to the sale of the Marion Surgery Center, located in Marion, IL. I am writing to voice my concerns and opposition of the sale of this facility to a non-physician, Ron Osman. I have lived and worked in southern Illinois for the last 20 years, performing surgeries and taking care of my patients in Marion and the surrounding communities. I would not feel comfortable doing surgeries at this facility if it were owned and operated by this attorney who is a non-physician. I will not continue to do surgeries with a surgical center owned and operated by this attorney. The sale of the surgery center to a non-physician would cause hardship on the citizens in our communities, who have depended and will continue to depend on my care as well as my colleagues' care. I hope that you will take all into consideration and make your decision based on improving access to healthcare under the control of medical professionals.

Thank you,

Ukeme Umana, M.D.

Paul A. Bennett, M.D.
3050 Chautauqua
Carbondale, Illinois
62901

May 31, 2011

Dear Sirs:

I am writing a letter in support of Dr. Maqbool Ahmad in his quest to obtain ownership of the Marion Surgery Center. Dr. Ahmad has been a valued member of our medical community for over 30 years and performs countless surgeries at that center. It seems that his ownership and leadership for that medical facility is certainly appropriate, if he wants to take on this responsibility. He has shown his ability to lead and build a medical practice over the years and his group now provides the bulk of eye care in our region. I would not like to see this facility owned and run by other than medical professionals.

I have known Dr. Ahmad since he came to town over 30 years ago and am happy to support him in this effort. I was in private family practice here for 24 years and am now practicing at the university health center. I would be willing to provide additional input if so desired.

Thank you for your consideration.



Paul A. Bennett, M.D. FAAFP

May 25, 2011

Members of the Board,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed transfer of ownership of the Marion Surgery Center. I am convinced that this transfer will create a significant issue with patients' access to care.

I am an optometrist with the Marion Eye Center, and I see patients in the Mt. Vernon, IL area. I am fortunate to be able to see patients when they have surgery in the Mt. Vernon surgery center. However, it is quite dramatic to see the distance that some of our patients are driving in order to have their trusted eye surgeon perform their eye surgery. I see many patients that have to get up very early in the morning to travel many miles to have their surgery. I know that many of these patients would benefit from an increased quality of life if their eye surgeon was able to perform the necessary procedure at a facility closer to their home. Unfortunately, it appears this will not be possible if this attorney is allowed to control the surgery center near their community.

I have seen Dr. Ahmad continuously be successful in his goal of providing quality eye care to southern Illinois. This includes building offices and providing clinic services in many of the small towns in southern Illinois. This is convenient for patients and clearly demonstrates a commitment to making access to care a priority. I believe that Dr. Ahmad would continue to improve the access to quality eye care if he was allowed to proceed with his plan to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. By that same reasoning, the access to care would be severely diminished if Mr. Osman is allowed to control this facility.

I respectfully ask that you consider these issues and deny the transfer of ownership to Mr. Osman. It is clearly not in the best interest of the residents of this community.



Geoffrey M. Sneddon, OD

15605 E. Country Meadows Rd.
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

May 25, 2011

CM. Banerjee, M.D., Ph.D.
12 Pamela Place
Murphysboro, IL 62966

To: Health Facilities and Services Review Board

Dear Members of the Board,

I am stunningly shocked to hear about the fact that some non-medical attorney had filed for a certificate of need exemption for the Marion Surgery Center.

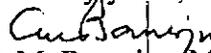
Being a physician, I am quite familiar with the outstanding service currently being rendered by the surgeons at the Marion Surgery Center. Dr. Ahmad has successfully provided high quality service to our communities for many years. By doing this, he has provided many jobs and, most of all, patients have been able to be treated here in the area without inconvenient and expensive trips to St. Louis or other cities for care. Now he wants to buy the facility that houses his business. He should be allowed to do so and to continue his excellent work.

I am opposed the change of ownership to a non-medical attorney and believe that it would wipe out all the advantages of the great service of this facility and harm access to health care in Marion and the surrounding areas of southern Illinois. I would not be able to refer or recommend anybody to use that facility if the present ownership is changed to a non-medical person.

I appeal to you to disapprove the application for a certificate of need exemption that was filed by an attorney for the surgery center in Marion, IL.

Thanking you,

Sincerely yours,


C. M. Banerjee, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
SIU School of Medicine



FAMILY PRACTICE

3331 West DeYoung, Suite 305 • Marion, Illinois 62959 • Phone: 618-985-9140 • Fax: 618-985-9143

**KAREN STRACK, DO
ANN BROWNING, PA-C**

May 4, 2011

Marion Eye Center
1200 W. DeYoung
Marion, IL 62959

To Whom It May Concern:

The Marion Eye Center is a medical/surgical facility and I understand that it is in the process of being purchased by non-medical personnel. We need to be sure that medical facilities are purchased, run, and managed by medical people and aware of all the intricacies of medical practice in this time. I strongly support the purchase of The Marion Eye Center by medical personnel and I am opposed to any purchase by any non-medical individuals.

If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to write or call.

Sincerely,



Karen Strack, D.O.

KS:dsb

St. Mary's Good Samaritan

Incorporated

*Cosponsored by Felician Services, Inc.
and SSM Health Care*

April 28, 2011

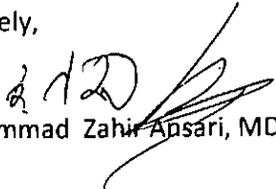
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have seen the letter from Dr. Maqbool Ahmad, who currently works at the Marion Eye Centers and Optical. He wants to buy the Marion Surgery Center located in Marion, IL. I support Dr. Ahmad's efforts to treat patients locally. I do not support Mr. Ronald Osman, Dr. Ahmad's previous attorney, buying the surgery center.

In my opinion, if Dr. Ahmad doesn't buy the center, the patients will suffer and the community will suffer.

I support Dr. Ahmad buying the Marion Surgery Center.

Sincerely,


Muhammad Zahir Apsari, MD

400 North Pleasant
Centralia, IL 62801
618.436.8000

www.smgsi.com

Murphysboro Family Medicine

628 N. 14th Street

Murphysboro, IL. 62966

618-687-2353 Office

618-687-9511 Fax

Thomas W. Kupferer, D.O. FACOFP

Valerie A. Kupferer, D.O., FAAFP

Donald Porter, D.O.

Rebecca Sloan, CNFP

April 7, 2011

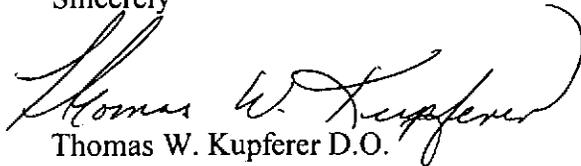
Re: Marion Surgery Center

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that Marion Eye Center has filed for a Certificate of Need Exemption. It is my understanding that an attorney has filed this application. I believe this facility should be owned and operated by medical professionals located in this area, not a non-physician attorney. If the surgeons from Marion Eye Center do not do surgeries there I cannot see how this would be under a Certificate of Need "Exemption", which indicated that it would continue to operate as it has in the past. It is not in the best interest of the patients and the community for this attorney to own and operate a surgery center.

If this attorney buys it, I will be reluctant to send any patients there and will also inform my peers not to join the surgery center.

Sincerely



Thomas W. Kupferer D.O.

April 6, 2011

Dr. Chandrashekar Padmalatha
405 West Jackson Street
Carbondale, IL 62901

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to convey my concern with the purchase of Marion Surgery Center where the majority of eye surgeries are conducted each year. I am appalled that such a purchase may not be possible due to community members trying to come in the way.

As a physician, it would be of great loss in the field of medicine if our local residents were forced to travel outside of Marion to seek eye treatments when we already have a superbly qualified eye surgery team, The Marion Eye Centers & Optical. This is especially true for procedures regarding retina services, which are the expertise of our doctors at the Marion Eye Center.

Also, if this purchase is not made, it would force our wonderfully competent and expert eye surgeons and doctors to loss their jobs. It would be shame if our community no longer had these medical professionals in our area.

I encourage you to please consider not allowing a third party to undermine the purchase by the Marion Eye Center.

Thank you,



C. Padmalatha
Pathologist, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale

SIMS

Medical Arts Clinic

Dale Blaise, MD
Emily Hanson, DO

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MEDICAL SERVICES
19 E SHAWNEE DRIVE
SUITE 2
MURPHYSBORO, IL 62966
618.684.2172 T

April 6, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Marion Surgery Center

It has come to my attention that there has been a recent attempt to sell the Marion Surgery Center to an outside entity which is not a medical professional. I have deep concerns regarding the sale of this center to individuals who are not medical professionals. It is my opinion that a facility such as this should be owned and managed by physicians and I have grave concerns about this sale and if in fact, the sale goes through and the building is purchased a non-medical personnel, I would be reluctant to refer any further procedures at this facility. Please seriously re-consider the sale.

Sincerely,



Dale W. Blaise, MD

ISSA ABEDMAHMOUD M.D.
AUTUMN WILLS P.A.C
DIABETES AND ENDOCRINE OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
3020 SOUTH PARK AVENUE
HERRIN, IL 62948
(618)-988-1877 ♦ FAX (618)-988-8578

Ref: Marion Surgery Center

To Whom It May Concern:

April 6, 2011

It is in the best interest of the patient and the community to have Marion Surgery Center to be owned and operated by Medical Professionals located in this area.

Thank You,


Issa Abed M.D.

SAEED A. KHAN, M.D. FACP
INTERNAL MEDICINE AND CARDIOLOGY
TELEPHONE: (618) 435-8189
FAX: (618) 439-3173
BENTON MEDICAL CENTER
205 BAILEY LANE
BENTON, ILLINOIS 62812

April 5, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: MARION SURGERY CENTER

Dear Sir:

It has come to my attention that Marion Surgery Center is for sale, and an attorney has applied for a Certificate of Need. This is a surgery center where important minor surgeries are performed without the patient going to a larger hospital.

I object to this very severely. It is a bad idea and not good for my patients. All he (the attorney) will be buying it for is profit without any consideration for the patients' care and the patients' welfare.

I request you to please scrap this idea. If the attorney buys it, I will not send any patients there for cataract surgery or any other surgical procedure. I will also convince my peers and associate physicians not to send patients there.

This is just to let you know that I had cataract surgery in both of my eyes at Marion Surgery Center. I have been in practice in Benton for 35 years. My mother and sister came from Pakistan, and they also had cataract surgery at Marion Surgery Center.

I refer many of my patients for cataract surgery and other minor surgery at Marion Surgery Center. It will not be in the best interests to sell Marion Surgery Center to attorneys who want to sue the doctors for frivolous cases. The doctors job is to take care of their patients. I have a busy Internal Medicine practice in my office. Many of my patients are elderly, and they need cataract surgery and other eye procedures.

RE: MARION SURGERY CENTER

PAGE 2

April 5, 2011

I would appreciate your sympathetic consideration in this matter not to sell Marion Surgery Center to the attorneys. If you have any questions, please give me a call at my office (618) 435-8189.

Sincerely yours,

S.A. Khan MD 4.5.2011

Saeed A. Khan M.D., FACP
Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine
Fellow of American College of Physicians

Benton Medical Center
205 Bailey Lane
Benton, IL 62812

Office telephone (618) 435-8189
Office fax (618) 439-3173

Saeed A. Khan MD FACP, LTD
Benton Medical Center
205 Bailey Lane
Benton, IL 62812



ANAD K. SALEM, M.D.
Diplomat American Board of Family Practice
Oldenhage-Hughes Medical Building
207 W. Jackson, Suite # 201
Carbondale, IL 62901

Telephone (618) 457-2963

April 4, 2011

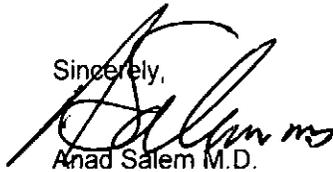
To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in regards to the sale of the surgery center in Marion.

I am concerned about the sale of the surgery center in Marion to a nonphysician group. I have been involved in quality control, and quality improvement. Although a nonphysician group may hire the right people, the direction of the group, the philosophy of the group, and division of the nonphysician group, will not have the same impact, quality, service, safety, as a physician owned group.

In regards to my patient, I may decide to send my patients to physicians elsewhere, out of fear of decrease in quality.

Sincerely,



Anad Salem M.D.

4/4/11

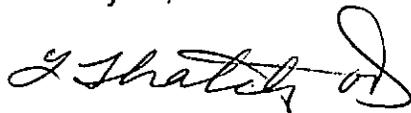
Dear Illinois Health Planning Board,

I am writing this letter to oppose the Certificate of Need filed by Mr. Osman, who wants to purchase the Marion Surgery Center in Marion, IL. As an attorney, Mr. Osman should not be making decisions in the delivery of healthcare.

I believe that Dr. Maqbool Ahmad and the Marion Eye Center should be allowed to purchase the outpatient surgery center. Dr. Ahmad is a brilliant physician and an exceptional surgeon who has been helping people see better for years. I have known Dr. Ahmad for almost eight years, and he is an honorable, honest individual who has provided much needed eye care to the community. Dr. Ahmad and the other surgeons from Marion Eye Center have been performing outpatient surgeries at the Marion Surgery Center for 15 years, bringing revenue and jobs into our community.

Please do not approve Mr. Osman's unnecessary Certificate of Need. It is not in the best interest of our community. I know that it is in the best interest of the patients to be able to have their necessary eye surgeries close to home, performed by the experienced physicians from the Marion Eye Center.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L Thatch".

Dr. Lisa Thatch

12510 E. Heritage Drive

Mount Vernon, IL 62864



MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

Offices - Illinois

Anna
1-618-633-8359

Benton
1-618-439-2020

Carbondale
1-800-854-3562

Carbondale SIU
1-618-549-0615

Carlyle
1-618-594-2220

Carmi
1-618-384-5112

Cartersville
1-618-985-9983

Centralla
1-618-532-1997

Chostor
1-618-826-5413

DuQuoin
1-618-542-3812

Eldorado
1-618-273-6220

Fairfield
1-618-842-3228

Flora
1-618-682-3202

Harrisburg
1-618-252-5377

Herrin
1-618-942-2900

Marion
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Pinckneyville
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Sparta
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1-573-824-4584

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1-573-686-5886

Sikeston
1-573-472-8181

Staff

Maqbool Ahmad, M.D. • Faisal 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. • Kelth Tyhurst, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

April 4, 2011

IL Healthcare Planning Board

Dear Members of the Planning Board:

I would like to oppose the sale of the Marion Surgery Center to a non-physician attorney, Ron Osman. The purchase and approval of the Certificate of Need for this individual would cause more hardships for my patients and would not be in the best interests of our southern Illinois communities. If this facility were to be purchased and controlled by medical professionals, our patients could have the much needed access to quality healthcare that they deserve. I have listed some reasons as follows:

I would like to certify that over the last couple of years I have had numerous encounters at the SCA surgery center in Marion with a number of my patients that has created difficulties for them. On a number of occasions the surgery center would not accept the patient's insurance which necessitated me taking these patients to St. Louis to undergo their planned surgery at St. Claire Health Center which readily accepted the patient's health care insurance.

In addition a few instances occurred in which they were unable to accommodate my patients who either were fairly obese patients or patients that were large enough that I was told that could not transfer them because of lack of equipment to transfer them to the operating room beds, this necessitated my having to also take these patients to St. Claire Health Center for their surgery.

There were numerous instances where patients were turned down because of multiple medical problems and I was told the patients were unable to have surgery at the surgery center for those reasons which again necessitated me taking these patients to St. Clair Health Center in St. Louis to undergo their medical procedure.

Finally in a number of instances I had patients where I had requested that they undergo general anesthesia and was told that they would not administer general anesthesia in this facility and there again I was forced to take the patient to another out-patient surgery center in St. Louis to undergo their planned surgery under general anesthesia as requested by me.

If this surgical center were to be owned and controlled by medical professionals, it would be updated with all the latest state of the art equipment so that these patients that have already been inconvenienced will not endure more inconvenience and need to go out of the area for the above mentioned reasons. If a non-physician attorney were to get control of the surgery center, I have my doubts that these patients would get the equipment and care that they deserve. If purchased by this individual, I will not be doing surgery at this facility.

Sincerely,

R. Joseph Oik, M.D.



MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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1-618-833-8359

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1-618-439-2020

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

April 4, 2011

IL Healthcare Planning Board

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Planning Board,

This is in regard to the change in the majority ownership of the Surgery Center of Southern Illinois, an ambulatory surgery facility that I have used since 1993 and have continued to use until recently.

I have always desired the facility be owned by individuals who practice medicine as a profession and am disturbed at the possibility of its majority ownership being sold to an attorney. Should this happen, I would no longer wish to do surgery at this facility.

Respectfully,


George Ortiz, M.D.

April 4th, 2011

To whom it may concern:

Re: Propaganda by Ron Osman to purchase the Marion Surgery Center/Marion Eye Center.

I am writing this letter in order to oppose the idea of the above surgery center being sold to a local attorney named Ron Osman. Being a health care provider, I feel obligated to say that if a healthcare facility is own by a non-physician, it more or less becomes a local business place as oppose to a truly patient dedicated health care provider facility, the sole purpose of which will be to attract locals in order to grow the business as oppose to serve the population who are in real desperate need of their care.

Traditionally, Marion Eye Center has been serving the Southern Illinois for a long time and they are truly and honestly dedicated to providing the health care services to the local residents who are need for their eye care. As far as their reputation is concerned, it is beyond doubts that it outstanding. It is all due to the dedication of their physician and very convenient and easy access to the local patients. If the scenario was even a bit different, it would not carry such a prestigious name and such great reputation.

As a physician as well as a patient, (my mother received several treatment at the Marion facility), I must say that it was extremely convenient for me to take my mother at that facility. I did not take the entire day off to meet those appointments. The way my mother war treated was out standing and for that I truly respect the entire staff at that facility.

It is not for the sake of a family member that I am writing this supporting letter, rather thinking about the entire southern Illinois population for their care. If for the above reasons, the physicians at the facility decide to move their practice to some remote location far away from the existing one, think about the hardship the locals will have in order to make their timely course of treatment and care. Majority of the eye patients are elderly folks, who are totally or partially dependent on some for their care and needs. They will suffer a great deal due to that move.

All of the above is because the share holders of that facility really and honestly think beyond the business prospective and truly are there for serving the needy and providing them with great care. It is due to the fact that the physicians of the facility know that patients are always first. They truly understand and care for their problems as oppose to looking to grow the business.

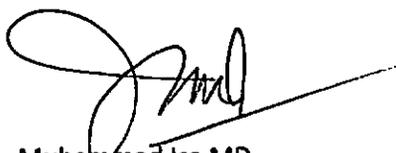
Knowing the above and now finding out that the facility will be SOLD TO A LOCAL LAWYER, who has no knowledge of patient care, bothers me a lot and it is beyond my comprehension. I am very concerned that it will hurt the entire region and its population for their eye care need. I cannot think of any thing worse than seeing the dedicated physicians taking their surgery somewhere else because of this outrageous move. We all understand the outcomes of a business if it is run by a business minded person. IT BECOMES A PLACE FOR BUSINESS WITH THE IDEA OF A BUSINESS. The bottom line is, only the innocent patients suffer.

I therefore request the decision marketers to think about the grave outcomes of this step and stop the move in favor of our local residents and their relatives who are truly dependents of the great services of the physicians of the Marion Eye Center/Southern Illinois Surgery center. Please allow the surgeons and physicians to operate the facility as it is meant to be operated for its purposes and please allow them to serve the community as they have been serving it for the past so many years.

I will never favor selling the majority of the shares of that health care facility to any one who has no knowledge of the needs of the patients and who has never been involved in the care of a patient. I will not see the control in a LWYER'S HAND who can easily manipulate the system for personal benefits. Please allow the physicians and their staff their existing liberty to treat their patients and let them continue without any obstacle and resistance from an outsider.

Please feel free to contact me regarding this matter if you need any further clarification.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Muhammad Isa', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Muhammad Isa MD
Staff Anesthesiologist
Brigham Anesthesia South, LLC
35 Albany Road Suite "C"
Carbondale, IL 62903
doctorisa@yahoo.com
618-457-5111

Shobha Dayal
Veterans Affairs Hospital
Marion, Illinois-

April 4, 2011

My name is Dr. Shobha Dayal. Please consider this letter as a statement in support of Dr. Ahmad, Dr Ortiz and Dr Umana and their efforts to keep the present location of Marion Eye Centers functional. I am associated with the Marion Eye Center as a patient and as a physician. I am shocked to hear that this established organization, which serves the community with its experts, skilful ophthalmologists and other providers has to prove to the court that their services in the Marion, Carbondale and surrounding area are needed.

If the present location is moved it will be very inconvenient for the patients to travel the additional distance. Marion Eye Center caters to hundreds of people for their eye problems, which includes many elderly who suffer from cataract, glaucoma, dilated Diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration and have to go for laser and other eye surgeries frequently.

I am just one of thousands of patients who rely on the Marion Eye Center for my swift treatment. And I hope that the present location can continue being a surgery center so that it does not create trouble for the patient population.

Sincerely, 
Shobha Dayal, M.D.

622 S. Glenview Drive

Carbondale, IL 62901

April 2, 2011

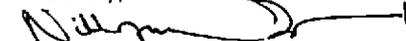
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: Marion Surgery Center

I am writing to express my support of the proposed purchase of the Marion Surgery Center by Dr. Maqbool Ahmed. As a medical facility it seems only right that the Center be owned, run, and maintained by medical professionals rather than by non-medical practitioners. An attorney, in my view, is not suitable for the proposed sale. Dr. Ahmed, on the other hand, is a well-respected practitioner, known throughout the area for his medical and managerial skills.

Dr. Maqbool Ahmed has provided outstanding and exemplary service to the Southern Illinois community for many years. The projected enterprise would benefit the community even further. I strongly support this endeavor.

Sincerely,


Nillofur Zobairi, Ph.D

(618-457-7396)

March 31, 2011

To whom it may concern,

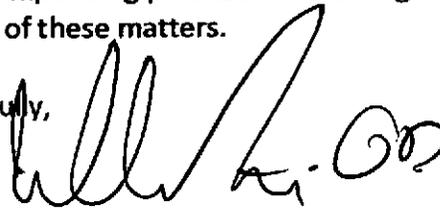
I am an optometrist in Herrin, Illinois and have been practicing for 30 years. I have referred my patients to Marion Eye Center and Dr. Ahmad since that time. They are a wonderful group of dedicated surgeons.

It has come to my attention that do to a non-physician buying the surgical center located in Marion that they may no longer be able to perform surgery in the area. I believe that this would cause a hardship to the people of Marion and greater southern Illinois for the following reasons. These are reasons my patients have discussed with me.

- 1) **Access to care-** There are many patients that I see that are elderly and or single and do not have family to drive them for their surgery. They have expressed concern of getting a non-family member to drive them to an out of area surgery center.
- 2) **Post-op surgical care-** if there is any complication of surgery our main office is immediately right down the street to handle any emergencies or complications
- 3) **Timeliness of care-** A retinal detachment causes immediate loss of vision. Minutes are critical in doing prompt surgery as the longer the length of time of detachment has a profound influence on the outcome of surgery.
- 4) **Cost of care-** Many elderly and patients living on a fixed income have difficulty affording the extra gas money to travel outside the area. Therefor delaying or postponing surgery.
- 5) **Decisions made by a non-physician-** Certainly there is a profit motivation for most business entities. However, those surgical centers run by administrators trained in the medical field will also take in to consideration the needs of the patients they serve. Certain surgeries are more profitable than others. Will this be the dominant thought of a non-physician run facility?
- 6) **Loss of revenue for the community-** There are jobs created directly and indirectly with a large surgical center. These jobs will be lost to competing factions outside the community. Also the additional tax revenue generated will be lost.

These are just a few arguments regarding the impending purchase of the surgical center by Mr. Osman. Please feel free to call me at my office to discuss any of these matters.

Respectfully,



William D. Fix, O.D.



MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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1-618-833-8359

Benton
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Staff

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Geoffrey Sneddon, O.D. • Lisa Thatch, O.D. • Keith Tyhurst, O.D. • Wendy Van Houten, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

3-28-11

Attn: Members of Planning Board

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter in opposition to the sale of the surgery center in Marion to Mr. Osman. If this is allowed, many of our patients in Southern Illinois and Missouri will have to drive miles out of their way for care. Many of these are elderly persons on fixed incomes who will find it hard to handle that added expense.

Also - Marion Eye Center is a strong and stable employer of many people in Southern Illinois. In today's economic conditions, we need to support employer's to keep people working as well. Allowing Mr. Osman to purchase the surgery center would hurt many people and have far-reaching economic effects in Marion and the surrounding areas.

Mollie Raddatz 100

Michael Kalaher, O.D.

3/28/11

Illinois Health Planning Board

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to express my concerns about the possibility of the surgery center in Marion being sold and used for other uses. I believe it is in the best interest of all of Southern Illinois to have a facility with the capability to provide ophthalmologic surgeries. I hear from patients daily wanting a more convenient location for their cataract surgeries. They do not wish to travel outside the area, but they are willing to do so because of the skill and reputation of the surgeons at the Marion Eye Centers. This takes employment opportunities and revenue away from our area. In my opinion there is a definite need for an ophthalmic surgery center in Marion, and I hope you will vote not to allow the sale of the current one for any other purpose.

Sincerely,

Michael Kalaher O.D.

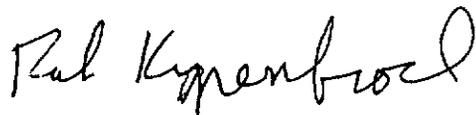
March 23, 2011

Dear Illinois Health Planning Board Members,

As Clinical Director and Staff Optometrist at the Marion Eye Center, many of my patients have expressed their concern of not being able to have their and their family's eye surgery performed locally in Marion, IL, by Marion Eye Center surgeons. These concerns include the extra expense of gasoline needed to travel outside of Marion, IL, for their surgery. In addition to the inconvenience and expense, patients also worry about the extra time that is needed away from work for their family members that must accompany them the day of surgery. Because of their limited vision, my patients needing retina surgery have shared their concern of needing to travel outside of Marion, IL, since no other surgery centers or hospitals in Marion or Carbondale, IL, have the specialized retinal surgery equipment needed to perform the retinal surgeries they need.

For the good of my patients, please do not grant a Certificate of Need to this non-physician and non-healthcare entity attempting to purchase the surgery center in Marion, IL. My patients will be better served by having eye surgery in Marion, IL.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rob Kippenbrock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "K" and "C".

Robert L. Kippenbrock, O.D., F.A.A.O.
Clinical Director, Marion Eye Centers

March 21, 2011

The Illinois Health Planning Board

Dear Madam/Sir:

I am a General Surgeon who had been a Patient and had had 2 Cataract Surgery at the Marion Eye Center.

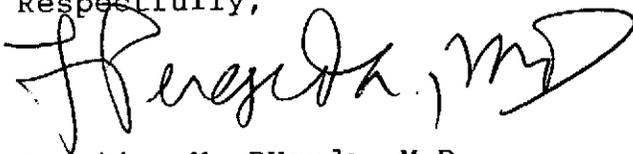
The eye Surgeons are all excellent Professionals, honest, and very trustworthy.

If the "non-Medical" Corporation is granted the Certificate of Need to buy the SCA- Southern Illinois Surgery Center, this will be a detriment to the Patients and our community. This will be so much Inconvenience to a lot of old Patient, who usually accompanies them for transferrals, especially if they have to travel outside the area, and the poor economy (high gas prices). There will be loss of job/Revenue

We have Experts on Eye Surgery for at least 30 years experience who had been in Business and should make critical Decisions done by "MEDICAL ENTITY" and "NOT" by a "NON-Healthcare entity.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Faustino V. PUGEDA, M.D.", written in a cursive style.

Faustino V. PUGEDA, M.D.

Ref: Southern Illinois Surgery Center

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Diotoko Kiam, MD. I am a physician practicing Anesthesiology for the past 40 years. I have worked in several places (Chicago, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Iowa) before coming to Southern Illinois.

For the past 10 years, I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Ahmad and his associates of the Marion Eye Centers. I have been impressed by the high standard of professionalism and exceptional patient care with which they practice medicine.

I am very concerned that a non-medical person has applied for a CON to purchase the Surgery Center of Marion, IL. He will be concerned only about the bottom line rather than patient care. It will be in the best interest of the patients of Southern Illinois that this facility should be run and operated by medical professionals whose primary interest will be to take care of the patients for good outcomes of their surgical procedures.

I strongly oppose the sale of the Surgery Center to an attorney and plead to the Board Members to turn down his application.

Sincerely,



Diotoko Kiam, MD

To : Illinois Health Planning Board

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

We are very fortunate in Southern Illinois to have some of the finest eye surgeons in the nation practicing right here in our small communities. It would be a travesty to force these surgeons out of this area.

For the last 15 years, Marion Eye Center surgeons have performed the majority of their eye surgeries at the Marion Surgery Center (SCA/ Southern Illinois Surgery Center) which was mainly owned by SCA(Surgical Care Affiliates).

An attorney in Marion, for some reason, is trying to undermine Marion Eye Center's purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption to purchase it. If this attorney is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. I believe this will be a detriment to our patients and 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 an attorney in delivery of healthcare
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

I urge you to allow the Marion Eye Center to continue with the purchase of the surgery center, which will allow patients local access to excellent surgeons for their needs, and stop this attorney from this purchase.

Thank you,



Mark R. Barlow, O.D.



MARION EYE CENTERS & OPTICAL

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Wendy Van Houten, O.D. • Eric Weinbauer, O.D. • Beth Westell, O.D.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in regards to Marion Eye Centers attempt to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. As an eye physician this is very concerning to me, because it could directly impact my patients choice on where they can have their eye surgery. Drs. Ortiz, Ahmad, Oik, and Umana are excellent eye surgeons and their surgical care should not be dictated by a nonqualified person with no medical training such as Mr. Osman.

If Mr. Osman were to purchase the Marion Surgery Center, patients that need ophthalmic related surgery would need to travel to Mt. Vernon or St. Louis to get the proper care that they need. That possibility seems ridiculous to me, given that this travel is unnecessary and very inconvenient to the people of Southern Illinois. I feel very strongly about this subject and hope strong consideration is given to the Doctors of Marion Eye Centers proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Smith, OD

TO: Illinois Planning Board

RE: Marion Surgery Center

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

My name is Dirk Bochner. I am a resident of Marion, as well as an optometrist in southern Illinois. I am writing in opposition to the certificate of need exemption requested by Mr. Ron Osman. I do not feel a non-physician should be in charge of a surgery center.

I am aware that Dr. Ahmad had an agreement in place to purchase the Marion surgery center. Mr. Osman began the process of acquiring the surgery center after Dr. Ahmad had agreed to purchase the surgery center. While this may not be illegal, it seems unethical at the least.

It also had come to my attention that if Mr. Osman is allowed to purchase this surgery center Dr. Ahmad and associates will no longer be doing surgery at the Marion Surgery Center. This would have several detrimental consequences. It would create a major inconvenience to the patients of southern Illinois who need access to the facility for their surgical eyecare. As you are aware a majority of these patients are elderly and lengthy travel to and from surgery is not desirable. It also has come to my attention that Dr. Ahmad and associates have been responsible for roughly 90 percent of the surgery done at this facility. I can not imagine how any company could lose 90 percent of its business and still remain viable. I assume this would have a negative effect on the local economy as well.

I do not believe it is in the best interest of anyone for this non-physician entity to purchase and operate the Marion Surgery Center. I strongly oppose granting this certificate of need exemption.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dirk Bochner O.D.", written in dark ink.

Dirk Bochner O.D.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in in opposition to Ronald Omen's purchase of the surgery center in Marion, Illinois. I am a doctor and have been in practice for 24 years. It is my experience that surgery centers perform best when controlled by doctors who have a vested interest in the well being of their patients. When businessmen are in control of surgery centers profits are often put ahead of patient care. Patient care therefore suffers. It is also my understanding that if this sale is approved , Dr. Ahmad and his group will not continue to perform surgery at this Marion surgical facility. This will definitely impact the community in a negative way. It should be noted that most patients who require eye surgery are elderly, and should Dr. Ahmad move the surgical part of his practice to other facilities, these patients will be forced to travel greater distances for quality eye care This will put an increased burden on the seniors living in and around the Marion community. Please put the interests of these patients ahead of the interests of business by preventing the purchase of the Marion Surgery Center by Ronald Osmen.

Thank you for your kind attention,

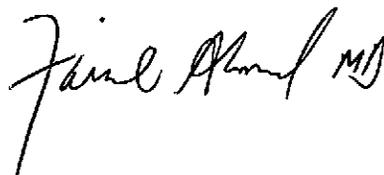
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Billings" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael K. Billings, O.D.

My name is Dr. Faisal Ahmad. I am an ophthalmologist specializing in vitreo-retinal diseases and cataract surgery. I am also speaking on behalf of my brother, Dr. Omar Ahmad who is also a vitreoretinal surgeon and will be joining the practice soon. I want the esteemed board members to know that there is a tremendous need for vitreoretinal care in southern Illinois and Southeast Missouri. We understand the role of the Health Facilities and Services Review Board is in part to ensure improved access to healthcare. Having grown up in Southern Illinois, both my brother and I look forward to providing this essential care the community needs and to continue the commitment my father, Dr. Ahmad, and his colleagues have made to this region.

We also want the members of the board to know that we will not perform any procedures at the Marion Surgery Center if this change of ownership is granted to attorney Osman. As physicians, we believe the medical decisions and medical practices should be under the control of medical professionals. The board is now aware of the ethical concerns we have given attorney Osman's prior dealings with Marion Eye Centers and in the community at large. We simply are not comfortable having our medical practice controlled by an attorney and in particular this attorney.

Thank You.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Faisal Ahmad MD". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Thank You." text.

C. M. Banerjee, M.D., Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, School of Medicine
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901, U.S.A.

Home:

12 Pamela Place, Murphysboro, IL 62966, U.S.A.
Tel (618) 687-3582
e-mail: ~~banjan@internet.net~~ galaxycable.net

Office:

Lindegren Hall, SIU School of Medicine
Carbondale, IL 62901, U.S.A.
Tel: (618) 453-1564, FAX: (618) 453-1517
e-mail: cbanerjee@siumed.edu

To Illinois Health Planning Board members

Ladies/gentlemen,
Please excuse my handwritten letter. I was originally planning to attend the public hearing regarding the purchase of SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center of Marion by Marion Eye Centers.

I am a patient of Marion Eye Center for over thirty years and I had my eye operations at that center. It will be a great occasion and I hope everybody in the area supports the purchase of Southern Illinois Surgery Center by Marion Eye Center.

This is extremely convenient to the local patients so that they do not have to go outside our area and Marion Eye Center is a well known entity in this region of which we are proud of. Furthermore it is also good for our local economy here and it enriches the existing reputable facility of Marion Eye Center.

I was planning to attend the public hearing on April 5, 2011 at Marion Council Chamber but unfortunately I have a ~~strong~~ strained back and spine couple days ago and I cannot go. So this is my letter in support of purchase of SCA, Southern Illinois Surgery Center by Marion Eye Centers and we are all proud of that.

Thanking you,

Sincerely
C. M. Banerjee



L. NEAL MCCAIN, M.D., F.A.C.S.

GENERAL SURGEON

PO Box 1507 Carbondale, IL 62903-1507
305 West Jackson, Suite 302
Carbondale, IL 62901-1474
(618)529-1770 Fax: (618)529-1777

April 2, 2011

To whom it may concern:

In regards to the Marion Surgery Center I support Dr. Ahmad in his quest to obtain a certificate of need, ownership, and to control the management of this business. After all he and the physicians of his group are the ones who practice medicine at that facility and provide service to the patients who go there.

I am opposed to the attempt by an attorney to buy the facility out from under the doctors that run it. I do not believe it is in the best interest of the patients being served. Common sense and fair application of the laws should prevail over the appearance of political cronyism and shady deals.

Sincerely,

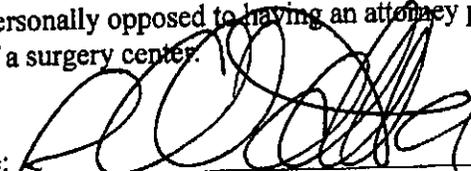
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L Neal McCain".

L. Neal McCain, M.D.

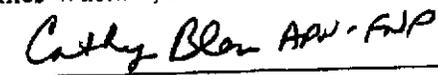
April 28, 2011

To the Illinois Health Planning Board:

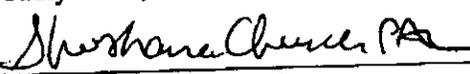
We are personally opposed to having an attorney purchasing and/or managing the access to care of a surgery center.

Signature: 
James Wachter, M.D.

Date: 4/28/11

Signature: 
Cathy Bless, APN-FNP

Date: 4/28/11

Signature: 
Shoshana Church, PA-C

Date: 4-28-11



Member

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGEONS, INC.

CLIFFORD L. COLEMAN, M.D.

DIPLOMATE AMERICAN BOARD OF PLASTIC SURGERY

1155 CEDAR COURT

CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS 62901

PHONE 618-549-3388

FAX 618-549-3380

April 5, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the Marion Surgical Center located in Marion, Illinois has been offered for sale.

I have practiced medicine in Southern Illinois for more than 31 years as a Plastic Surgeon. Greater than 95% of my surgical practice is outpatient, thus my interest in the Marion Surgical Center.

Two entities are presently interested in the purchase; one a physician based medical group and the other a law firm with a practice dedicated to personal injury. If sold to the law firm, I would be reluctant to be associated with this surgical center. I do not feel it would be much of a stretch for me to attribute similar sentiments to my peers.

In summary, I would like to see the Marion Surgical Center owned and operated by individuals dedicated to providing quality medical care in the area.

Sincerely,

Clifford L. Coleman, MD FACS

SPECIALIZING IN:

Congenital Anomalies
Cleft Lip & Palate Repair

Head & Neck Cancer

Hand Surgery
Carpal Tunnel
Tendon & Nerve Repairs

Breast Reconstruction

Breast Reduction

Skin Cancer Detection
and Treatment

Melanoma

Burns

Scar Revision

Breast Augmentation

Facelift & Eyelid Surgery

Liposuction

Abdominoplasty

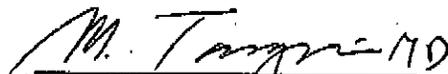
MANU TONGWARIN, M.D., FACOG

316 E. FRANKLIN STREET, P.O. BOX 811
DUQUOIN, ILLINOIS 62832
TELEPHONE (618) 542-8221

May 5, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In my opinion, the Marion Surgery Center in Marion
does not need the Certificate of Need "exemption."


MANU TONGWARIN MD

mt/js



Frank Bleyer, MD, FACC

3331 West DeYoung, Suite100 Marion, IL 62959
Office (618) 998-7600 FAX (618) 997-6680

April 25, 2011

RE: Marion Surgery Center of Southern Illinois

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that there is consideration for attorneys to have physician ownership of the Marion Surgery Center.

I would like to make strong recommendations that the Marion Surgery Center should remain in physician's ownership. Healthcare is a very complex service and that leadership needs the expertise of a physician. I do not believe that getting attorney ownership in the delivery of healthcare to the people of Southern Illinois will serve this area well.

If you have any concerns in regards to this opinion, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Bleyer", is written over a horizontal line.

Frank Bleyer, MD, FACC
River to River Cardiology Group
Heartland Regional Medical Center

Bob G. Thompson, M.D.
309 West St. Louis Street
West Frankfort, Il 62896
(618) 937-2437

April 4, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Re; Surgery Center

We have been told that the surgery center is to be sold to an attorney, and we oppose this sale.

Sincerely,



Bob G. Thompson, M.D.

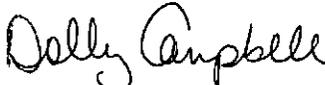
Dolly A. Campbell, O.D.
126 Lawneta Ln
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

March 30, 2011

Dear Illinois Health Planning Board,

The Marion Surgery Center is of great importance to my patients. I practice in the southern Missouri Marion Eye Center offices. There are several surgeries that my patients need to have performed at the Marion Surgery Center. These are procedures that cannot be performed closer to home in Missouri. If the Marion Surgery Center is closed to patients, it will make my patients have to drive even further out of their home area to get adequate eye care. Patients in southern Missouri and southern Illinois both deserve to have access to quality eyecare that is close to home.

Thank you,


Dolly Campbell, O.D.

Michael Kalaher, O.D.

3/28/11

Illinois Health Planning Board

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to express my concerns about the possibility of the surgery center in Marion being sold and used for other uses. I believe it is in the best interest of all of Southern Illinois to have a facility with the capability to provide ophthalmologic surgeries. I hear from patients daily wanting a more convenient location for their cataract surgeries. They do not wish to travel outside the area, but they are willing to do so because of the skill and reputation of the surgeons at the Marion Eye Centers. This takes employment opportunities and revenue away from our area. In my opinion there is a definite need for an ophthalmic surgery center in Marion, and I hope you will vote not to allow the sale of the current one for any other purpose.

Sincerely,

Michael Kalaher O.D.

March 31, 2011

To whom it may concern,

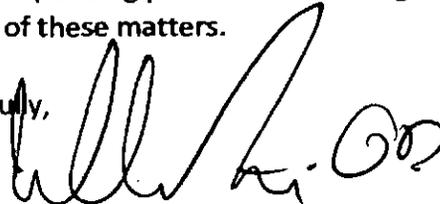
I am an optometrist in Herrin, Illinois and have been practicing for 30 years. I have referred my patients to Marion Eye Center and Dr. Ahmad since that time. They are a wonderful group of dedicated surgeons.

It has come to my attention that do to a non-physician buying the surgical center located in Marion that they may no longer be able to perform surgery in the area. I believe that this would cause a hardship to the people of Marion and greater southern Illinois for the following reasons. These are reasons my patients have discussed with me.

- 1) **Access to care-** There are many patients that I see that are elderly and or single and do not have family to drive them for their surgery. They have expressed concern of getting a non-family member to drive them to an out of area surgery center.
- 2) **Post-op surgical care-** if there is any complication of surgery our main office is immediately right down the street to handle any emergencies or complications
- 3) **Timeliness of care-** A retinal detachment causes immediate loss of vision. Minutes are critical in doing prompt surgery as the longer the length of time of detachment has a profound influence on the outcome of surgery.
- 4) **Cost of care-** Many elderly and patients living on a fixed income have difficulty affording the extra gas money to travel outside the area. Therefor delaying or postponing surgery.
- 5) **Decisions made by a non-physician-** Certainly there is a profit motivation for most business entities. However, those surgical centers run by administrators trained in the medical field will also take in to consideration the needs of the patients they serve. Certain surgeries are more profitable than others. Will this be the dominant thought of a non-physician run facility?
- 6) **Loss of revenue for the community-** There are jobs created directly and indirectly with a large surgical center. These jobs will be lost to competing factions outside the community. Also the additional tax revenue generated will be lost.

These are just a few arguments regarding the impending purchase of the surgical center by Mr. Osman. Please feel free to call me at my office to discuss any of these matters.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William D. Fix', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William D. Fix, O.D.

To : Illinois Health Planning Board

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

We are very fortunate in Southern Illinois to have some of the finest eye surgeons in the nation practicing right here in our small communities. It would be a travesty to force these surgeons out of this area.

For the last 15 years, Marion Eye Center surgeons have performed the majority of their eye surgeries at the Marion Surgery Center (SCA/ Southern Illinois Surgery Center) which was mainly owned by SCA(Surgical Care Affiliates).

An attorney in Marion, for some reason, is trying to undermine Marion Eye Center's purchase and has applied to the Illinois Planning Board for a Certificate of Need Exemption to purchase it. If this attorney is able to accomplish this, it would force our surgeons to go elsewhere to perform surgery. I believe this will be a detriment to our patients and 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 an attorney in delivery of healthcare
- Unknown future of the surgery center
- Loss of jobs in our community
- Loss of revenue for the community

I urge you to allow the Marion Eye Center to continue with the purchase of the surgery center, which will allow patients local access to excellent surgeons for their needs, and stop this attorney from this purchase.

Thank you,



Mark R. Barlow, O.D.

Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I am writing this letter to oppose the purchase of the Southern IL Surgery Center to Ronald Osman. As a doctor in the medical profession, I feel that a medical office should be controlled by doctors not lawyers! A controlling doctor would better understand the needs of the office and more importantly the needs of the patients. Patients are the most important aspect of a medical office without them, an office would not run. If this office is sold to Mr. Osman I believe that the office will lose many of its patients due to the fact the Marion Eye Center will no longer be associated with the Surgery Center. Please consider the patients and the doctors when deciding ownership of the Southern Illinois Surgery Center. Finally, I once again strongly disagree of the sale of the Southern Illinois Surgery Center to Ronald Osman.

Thank you,

Dr. Micah Brasel

TO: Illinois Planning Board

RE: Marion Surgery Center

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

My name is Dirk Bochner. I am a resident of Marion, as well as an optometrist in southern Illinois. I am writing in opposition to the certificate of need exemption requested by Mr. Ron Osman. I do not feel a non-physician should be in charge of a surgery center.

I am aware that Dr. Ahmad had an agreement in place to purchase the Marion surgery center. Mr. Osman began the process of acquiring the surgery center after Dr. Ahmad had agreed to purchase the surgery center. While this may not be illegal, it seems unethical at the least.

It also had come to my attention that if Mr. Osman is allowed to purchase this surgery center Dr. Ahmad and associates will no longer be doing surgery at the Marion Surgery Center. This would have several detrimental consequences. It would create a major inconvenience to the patients of southern Illinois who need access to the facility for their surgical eyecare. As you are aware a majority of these patients are elderly and lengthy travel to and from surgery is not desirable. It also has come to my attention that Dr. Ahmad and associates have been responsible for roughly 90 percent of the surgery done at this facility. I can not imagine how any company could lose 90 percent of its business and still remain viable. I assume this would have a negative effect on the local economy as well.

I do not believe it is in the best interest of anyone for this non-physician entity to purchase and operate the Marion Surgery Center. I strongly oppose granting this certificate of need exemption.

Respectfully,



Dirk Bochner O.D.

May 25, 2011

Members of the Board,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed transfer of ownership of the Marion Surgery Center. I am convinced that this transfer will create a significant issue with patients' access to care.

I am an optometrist with the Marion Eye Center, and I see patients in the Mt. Vernon, IL area. I am fortunate to be able to see patients when they have surgery in the Mt. Vernon surgery center. However, it is quite dramatic to see the distance that some of our patients are driving in order to have their trusted eye surgeon perform their eye surgery. I see many patients that have to get up very early in the morning to travel many miles to have their surgery. I know that many of these patients would benefit from an increased quality of life if their eye surgeon was able to perform the necessary procedure at a facility closer to their home. Unfortunately, it appears this will not be possible if this attorney is allowed to control the surgery center near their community.

I have seen Dr. Ahmad continuously be successful in his goal of providing quality eye care to southern Illinois. This includes building offices and providing clinic services in many of the small towns in southern Illinois. This is convenient for patients and clearly demonstrates a commitment to making access to care a priority. I believe that Dr. Ahmad would continue to improve the access to quality eye care if he was allowed to proceed with his plan to purchase the Marion Surgery Center. By that same reasoning, the access to care would be severely diminished if Mr. Osman is allowed to control this facility.

I respectfully ask that you consider these issues and deny the transfer of ownership to Mr. Osman. It is clearly not in the best interest of the residents of this community.



Geoffrey M. Sneddon, OD

15605 E. Country Meadows Rd.
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

To : Illinois Health Planning Board

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

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Thank you,



Mark R. Barlow, O.D.

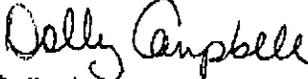
Dolly A. Campbell, O.D.
126 Lawneta Ln
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

March 30, 2011

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Thank you,


Dolly Campbell, O.D.

ARTHRITIS CLINIC, LTD.

Iqbal M. Akhter, M.D., F.A.C.R.
Rheumatology

1007 S. 42nd Street
Building A, Suite 4
Mt. Vernon, Illinois 62864

Phone: (618) 242-4626
Fax: (618) 242-4638

3022 S. Park Avenue
Herrin, Illinois 62948

April 4, 2011

Re: Marion Surgery Center
1200 W. DeYoung
Marion, Illinois 62959

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand Marion Eye Center is for sale and a medical malpractice attorney is trying to buy it. As a medical provider from the Arthritis Clinic I am concerned about this. I have a very good working relationship with the Marion Eye Center. I will be reluctant to refer any patients to the surgery center whose owner is a malpractice attorney.

Sincerely,



Iqbal M. Akhter, M.D.
Arthritis Clinic, Ltd.

IMA/sg