

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
525 West Jefferson Street  
Springfield, IL 62761

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

Dear Chairman Galassie:

This letter is in support of the above referenced certificate of exemption. I received letters from The Marion Eye Center explaining the current situation and how Ron Osman is "undermining" the purchase of the surgery center. I've had the opportunity of observing at the surgery center and each time I go, I witness how far the staff here is willing to go to make their patients happy and comfortable. I've also been able to witness how well these people work together and how they get along. I've heard people talking about the fact that Ron Osman is a lawyer and not a physician and that the surgery center should be owned by a physician. At this present time, the surgery center is not owned by a physician, but by a corporation (that is not even local) and I've seen nothing less than exceptional patient care and service from the employees here. Also, Dr. Ahmad has over 30 eye facilities; he can't possibly know what happens every day, that being said why does it make a difference if it's a lawyer or a doctor running the facility?

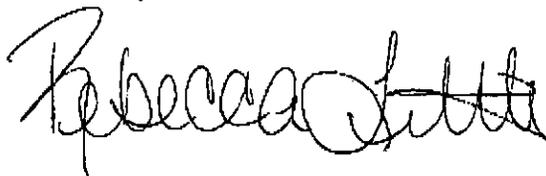
I understand that the MEC surgeons will no longer do surgery there if the surgery center is sold to Mr. Osman. I also understand that for the past several months MEC patients were not even going to the Marion Surgery Center for their surgeries; so the claim that MEC patients will now have to travel farther for surgery is outrageous, as they've already been doing that exact thing. I've seen the effects this has had on the current and past employees of the surgery center as some of them have been laid off and others have had to find additional jobs to compensate for the hours they were losing due to the drastic number of cases being pulled. This affects more people than just the employees of the surgery center, but also their families.

Nothing has happened in the area for there to no longer be a need for this facility. As a future mother, I love the fact that if my child would (for example) need dental work done and he/she is scared or too young to understand, there is a safe and less traumatic place for them to go. The different specialties available at the facility are a great thing for the area. I don't really have a complete understanding of why these letters are needed since there is an obvious need for this facility, nevertheless, I'm writing to support Ron Osman.

Ron Osman has been a close friend of my family's for many years and they have nothing but wonderful things to say about him. The attacks on his character are utterly ridiculous and shouldn't even be an issue; however they are being made one.

I support Ron Osman and ask that the Certificate of Exemption No. E-001-11 be transferred to him so the surgery center can continue providing the people of the area with the exceptional healthcare as it's always done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Little". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Rebecca Little  
704 S. Main St.  
Benton, IL 62812

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Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
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Re: Certificate of Exemption No. E-001-11, Surgery Center of Southern Illinois

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am writing this letter in support of the pending certificate of exemption application which is referenced above. It is my understanding that this request does not require substantive review due to the fact that the application meets the requirements for an exemption. Nevertheless, I would like to express my support for this project. I have been employed at the surgery center for almost four years now. When I began working at this facility I was extremely impressed with the care and compassion that was given to the patients, and also the way that everyone worked as a team, and behaved like a family. I knew that I had found the place that was the best match for all of my personal values.

Around April of 2010, things at the surgery center began to change drastically. Our surgical case volume was cut significantly. The existing employees sat and watched our co-workers/family lose their jobs due to the cuts that were beyond our control. The rest of us had our hours drastically cut. I personally was forced to seek an additional job to compensate for my loss of hours just so that I could survive. Ron Osman has made his intentions clear on retaining the existing staff and to see that the center grows. We have all been on one tremendous emotional rollercoaster for over a year now, waiting to see what the next move was going to be. The thought of being able to go to work and not continually worry about the future of the surgery center is a great one.

On any normal given day at work, I hear glowing comments from patients concerning the care that they receive at the facility. On more than one occasion I have been told how coming to a place such as that, is far less overwhelming than going to a hospital environment. If this were to be taken away from them, I fear that they would not have the needed procedures done. One group that I feel is particularly vulnerable are the pediatric dental patients. As a mother, my daughter has been put through surgery. I understand the fear that runs through a parent's mind when their child's life is left in the hands of others. My daughter had surgery performed on her many years ago at this very same surgery center. Parents have expressed their appreciation about this type of facility being available to them, as they feel that the care is more individualized and the environment is better for their children. Another important patient group that we serve in high numbers is pain management patients. I have been fortunate enough in my lifetime to not suffer a lot of physical pain. I have from time to time

had some back strains, and quite frankly felt debilitated during those times. I can't begin to know what a person with chronic pain feels on a daily basis, nor do I ever want to. I feel that it is important for these people to have available to them an environment that is again far less overwhelming than that of a hospital. Regardless of what procedure our patients have performed on them, they are all treated with the respect and compassion that they deserve and are given extremely high quality care. Every patient that comes through the doors has unique and individual needs, and every patient is treated accordingly.

I feel that many people have a misunderstanding about some surgeons being able to continue to do surgery at the surgery center. All of the limited partners have the opportunity to do cases at the surgery center. Their privileges to provide surgery to their patients has never been taken away, however, some of them have chosen not to do their cases there. Patients also have a choice where their surgical procedures will be performed. I feel that they have a misunderstanding on that fact as well.

I had not personally known Ron Osman prior to this business deal. When I learned of his involvement with the surgery center, I was told by a member of my family about his history and involvement with my family. When I brought his name up to several of the elder members of my family, they had nothing but glowing comments to say about him. I heard stories about his friendship with my cousin in high school, his representation of my uncle in a court case, but most of all his love and continued support and compassion for my family. My family has high ethics and morals when it comes to personal relationships and if Ron was not this kind of person, they would have told me so. I believe and trust in my family, just as I believe and trust in Ron.

The change in management to Mr. Osman would bring local control to this center, as at the present time it is managed by a national chain. It is my firm belief that Mr. Osman will manage this center with his high morals and ethics that my family spoke of. He understands this area and knows what needs to be done in order for the center to grow, make continuous improvements, and provide high quality and cost effective care for the patients of Southern Illinois.

I support Ron Osman and ask that the Certificate of Exemption No. E-001-11 be transferred to him so that our work family can continue doing the jobs that we love and continue to grow and provide a much needed service to the area.

Sincerely,



Lori Little  
704 South Main  
Benton, IL 62812

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Benton IL 62812

**RECEIVED**

JUN 03 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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Dear Chairman Galassie:

This letter is written in support of the pending Certificate of Exemption application which is referenced above. It is my understanding that Ronald E. Osman through an LLC named Cirurgia Centro has applied for an exemption letter to allow transfer of ownership of the Surgery Center in Marion, Illinois. I would like to express my support for the project. It is my understanding that all the staff at the Surgery Center will remain the same and that the Surgery Center will continue to provide the same type and quality of services as in the past. I had surgery at the Surgery Center and was extremely pleased with the professionalism displayed by the staff. If I have future needs for the services of a surgery center I look forward to being able to continue to utilize the Marion Surgery Center.

I thank you for bringing this matter to the public for comment as your rules provide as I appreciate having the opportunity to support Cirurgia Centro as the new manager and general partner of this facility.

Sincerely,

*Pat Kohzadi*

(Must sign and print name and address)

*PAT KOHZADI  
12282 HARMONY Church Road  
WEST FRANKFORT, FL, 62896*

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Sincerely,



(Must sign and print name and address)

SAMUEL P. WHITE  
401 N. 21<sup>ST</sup> STREET  
HERRIN, IL, 62948-1417