

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Reeves, Paula [preeves@arthritis.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2013 3:37 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney; Constantino, Mike  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Southern Illinois Healthcare Cancer Center  
**Attachments:** Cancer Center Letter of Support Reeves.pdf

Ms Avery

I am attaching my letter of support for Southern Illinois Healthcare's efforts to build the region's first cancer center. I respectfully urge your support for this much needed service in our area.

**Paula Reeves**

Director of Special Events  
Southern Illinois \* Southern Indiana

**Arthritis Foundation**

**Heartland Region**

4501 W. DeYoung Suite B104	*	700 N Weinbach Ave Suite 102
Marion, IL 62959		Evansville, IN 47711
618.993.1777		812.474.1381
618.993.1779 (fax)		812.474.1390 (fax)

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March 6, 2013

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: SIH Cancer Center, Project #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery,

Please consider this letter my personal endorsement of Southern Illinois Healthcare's effort to build a comprehensive, freestanding cancer center to serve patients throughout a seven county region of rural southern Illinois. Thousands of these patients live in the most impoverished counties of Illinois, many of which have the additional misfortune of being among those with the highest cancer incidence rates in the state.

Cancer experts estimate that the average patient may experience up to 100 visits in the first year of treatment alone. Instead of enduring long, tedious and expensive travel outside of Illinois, weary patients, their family and friends will now benefit from the streamlined, team-based care the SIH Cancer Center can provide close to home.

For the first time in southern Illinois, the region would benefit from the full continuum of cancer care in a single locale. These vital services range from radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and a home for multidisciplinary teams for breast, lung, gastrointestinal, genitourinary and head and neck cancers to clinical trials, support, survivorship and rehabilitation. The SIH Cancer Institute's academic affiliation with the Simmons Cancer Institute at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield also brings other, much-needed resources to southern Illinois.

Additionally, many of the patients that will ultimately receive care at the SIH Cancer Center are among our state's most vulnerable--elderly, low-income and uninsured. A federal designation also cites each of the seven counties in SIH's service area as "Health Professional Shortage Area(s) for Primary Medical Care."

I enthusiastically support SIH's mission, values and commitment to bring this caliber of cancer care to southern Illinois. Thank you for your time and attention to this project.

Respectfully,



Paula L. Reeves, Director  
Southern Illinois Area Office  
Arthritis Foundation