

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Marsha Taylor [mtaylor@shsdc.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2013 11:31 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney; Constantino, Mike  
**Subject:** SIH Cancer Center Project #13-005  
**Attachments:** SIH Ltr support March 11 2013.doc

Please see the attached letter from Patsy R. Jensen, Executive Director of Shawnee Health Service, regarding the proposal of Southern Illinois Healthcare for a comprehensive cancer center in southern Illinois.

Marsha Taylor, Corporate Administrative Assistant  
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March 11, 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:

I am writing to voice my support of Southern Illinois Healthcare's plans to develop a comprehensive cancer center in southern Illinois. Shawnee Health Service is a federally funded community health center project (FQHC) operating 12 clinics in Jackson and Williamson Counties delivering primary healthcare and dental services to over 30,000 southern Illinois residents each year. Our patients live in the most impoverished counties of Illinois, counties which also have the highest cancer incidence rates in the state.

Shawnee providers and support staff know first hand the personal and financial burden our patients face in seeking expert diagnosis and treatment hours away from their homes. The SIH Cancer Center is an opportunity for these patients to receive expert care close to their homes, family and friends.

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."

The SIH Cancer Center has the wholehearted support of Shawnee Health Service, its Board of Directors and staff.

Sincerely,

Patsy R. Jensen  
Executive Director