

Brian Harrison, MD

March 13, 2013

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

**RECEIVED**

MAR 18 2013

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: SIH Cancer Center, Project # 13-005

Dear Ms. Avery,

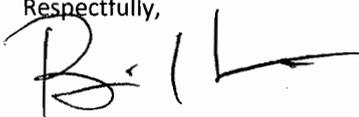
I am taking this opportunity to voice my enthusiastic endorsement of Southern Illinois Healthcare's effort to build a comprehensive, freestanding cancer center to serve patients throughout a seven county region of rural southern Illinois. Thousands of these patients live in the most impoverished counties of Illinois. Many of these counties have the additional misfortune of being among those with the highest cancer incidence rates in the state.

Instead of enduring long, tedious and expensive travel outside of Illinois, weary patients along with their family and friends will benefit from the streamlined, team-based care the SIH Cancer Center will now be able to provider under one roof. For the first time in our region, SIH would offer the full continuum of cancer care in a single locale. These vital services include radiation therapy, chemotherapy, a home for multidisciplinary teams for breast, lung, gastrointestinal, genitourinary and head and neck cancers, clinical trials, support, survivorship and rehabilitation care. The SIH Cancer Center also enjoys an academic affiliation with the Simmons Cancer Institute at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield. The breadth of this partnership brings additional, much-needed resources to southern Illinois.

Furthermore, many of the patients who will ultimately receive care at the SIH Cancer Center are among our state's most vulnerable –elderly, low-income and uninsured. In fact, all seven of the counties in SIH's service area are federally designated as "Health Professional Shortage Area(s) for Primary Medical Care."

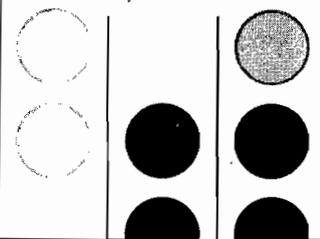
I wholeheartedly support SIH's mission, values, and commitment to bring this caliber of cancer care to southern Illinois. Thank you for your time and attention to this project.

Respectfully,



Brian C. Harrison, M.D.

203 BAILEY LANE  
SUITE 1  
BENTON, IL 62812  
618.438.5670 T  
618.438.5709 F





# Women for Health and Wellness, Inc.

March 6, 2013

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

Re: SIH Cancer Center, Project #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Women for Health and Wellness, Inc., please accept this letter as our wholehearted endorsement of Southern Illinois Healthcare's commitment to build and operate a freestanding cancer center in southern Illinois.

Southern Illinois cancer patients face two roads to recovery. One is the actual road to a metropolitan area to get treatment - at least two hours minimum way - and then there is the medical road to recovery. A cancer patient could log up to 100 trips to and from their appointments, infusions and hospitalizations in the first year of care alone. This road to recovery expensive and exhausting mentally, physically and emotionally for the patient, their friends and families.

This needn't be the case. With SIH's vision, cancer patients from throughout a seven county area of rural southern Illinois can receive streamlined care under one roof, centrally located along the Route 13 corridor. Medical oncology, radiation oncology, imaging, testing, infusion services, support, rehabilitation and recovery, just to name a few, will not be separated by miles, but by a few steps.

Many of the patients in the counties SIH serves are among the poorest and medically underserved regions in Illinois. The federal government has named each of the seven counties in SIH's service area as Health Professional Shortage Area(s) for Primary Care. Many of these same counties have the highest cancer incident rates in the state.

SIH's mission to bring doctors, surgeons, nurses, radiologists and support staff together under one roof ensures these patients will get the right care at the right time in the right setting.

Sincerely,

Fran Becque, Ph.D., Executive Director

--- Subsidiaries ---



Treasures In Time  
Vintage Fashion Show



--- Founders ---

Rosemary Berkel Crisp

Ann L. Knewitz

--- Board of Directors ---

Chair of the Board

Jo Sanders

Pamela Appleton

Carol Belt

Jill C. Cash

Cyndi Crisp Dickens (Honorary)

Kevin Hunsperger

Ann L. Knewitz

Ella Phillips Lacey, Ph.D.

Janice Payne

Jo Poshard

Janet Schuyler

Dixie Travelstead

Cathy A. Wood

Fran Becque, Ph.D.

Executive Director

c/o John A. Logan College

700 Logan College Road

Cartersville, IL 62918

1-800-416-1745

or 618-985-9210

Fax: 618-985-9019

www.w4hw.org

womenforhealthandwellness@  
gmail.com



March 14, 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,

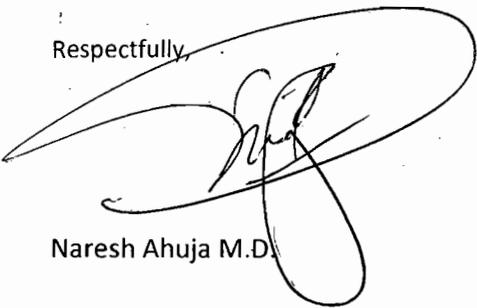
I am taking this opportunity to voice my enthusiastic endorsement of Southern Illinois Healthcare's effort to build a comprehensive, freestanding cancer center to serve patients throughout a seven county region of rural southern Illinois. Thousands of these patients live in the most impoverished counties of Illinois. Many of these counties have the additional misfortune of being among those with the cancer incidence rate in the state.

Instead of enduring long, tedious and expensive travel outside of Illinois, weary patients along with their family and friends will benefit from the streamlined, team-based care the SIH cancer Center will now be able to provide under one roof. For the first time in our region, SIH would offer the full continuum of cancer care in a single locale. These vital services include radiation therapy, chemotherapy, a home for multidisciplinary teams for breast, lung, gastrointestinal, genitourinary and head and neck cancers, clinical trials, support, survivorship and rehabilitation care. The SIH Cancer Center also enjoys an academic affiliation with the Simmons Cancer Institute at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield. The breadth of this partnership brings additional, much needed resources to southern Illinois.

Furthermore, many of the patients who will ultimately receive care at the SIH Cancer Center are among our state's most vulnerable—elderly, low income and uninsured. In fact, all seven of the counties in SIH's service are federally designed as "Health Professional Shortage Area(s) for Primary Medical Care."

I wholeheartedly 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,



Naresh Ahuja M.D.

317 South 14th Street | Suite 1 | Herrin, IL 62948 | 618.988.6171 o | 618.988.6172 f | NewLifeWeightLossCenter.com

DIRECT EXTENSION ACCESS: (618) 985-2828 or 457-7676  
OPERATOR: (618) 985-3741, 549-7335, 542-8612, 937-3438, TTY 985-2752  
WEB SITE: <http://www.jalc.edu>

*John A. Logan College does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, or gender orientation.*

For the people who cannot afford the long, tedious and expensive travel to a major metropolitan area, usually outside of our state's borders. Not only do these patients battle the disease itself, they also cope with the costs and struggles associated with simply getting the care, which can include high fuel rates, time away from work, hotel stays and meals. The love and support they so desperately need could be two hours away. For some, the means to get the care are too great.

Southern Illinois Healthcare has committed to lead the cancer fight for the people of this region. They've already shown their resolve by bringing more cancer specialists here and by building accredited programs, such as The Breast Center, where the goal is detection to diagnosis in 24 hours. Comprehensive medical treatment for cancer close to home makes huge differences in the lives of those suffering from this relentless disease.

Their American dream is living in southern Illinois. Your decision will allow this region's cancer patients to fight the disease where they find strength and hope—at home.

Very Truly Yours,



Kathy Renfro

March 14, 2013

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

In Re: SIH CA Center, Project #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH) Cancer Center building proposal in southern Illinois. In 2000, I was told I had cancer that was bad enough, but then they said they were not sure how to treat it. So I was sent out of state to Dr. Mutch at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri.

I had to make many trips to see Dr. Mutch while at the same time I was being treated at the SIH Cancer Center in Carbondale, Illinois which is only about 10 Miles from where I live. These long and frequent trips to St. Louis can really take a toll on someone who is trying to recover from cancer.

If there had been a larger building where SIH Cancer Center could expand and grow and bring in some more skilled doctors, then we would not have to be sent out of state for diagnosis and treatment.

So I ask you on behalf of SIH Cancer Center to please make it a reality for comprehensive medical treatment close to home. It would make a great difference in the lives of those suffering from this cruel disease.

Respectfully,

*Debra K. Kramer*

Debra K. Kramer  
Apt. #104  
301 Hickory  
Carterville, IL 62918

March 12, 2013

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

Re: SIH Cancer Center, Project #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery,

I'm writing this letter to express my support for the SIH Cancer Center building proposal in Southern Illinois.

No matter where you live, the mention of the word "Cancer" strikes fear. Not only for the survival but also for the treatment and the cost. Where can I get the best treatment? Do I need to go to St. Louis? Can I afford that? Can I afford not to? These were all the things that hit me when they told me I had "Cancer".

If you are from Southern Illinois, facing "Cancer" has often meant frequent trips to St. Louis or Cape Girardeau to find a treatment center that we feel comfortable with. So not only are the patients battling with a disease that could take their life but they also have to cope with the expense of gas, overnight stays for some, and meals. That puts a heavy burden on a lot of people including myself. With the SIH Cancer Center here in Southern Illinois that would take that burden away from a good many people. The love and support could be within a safe and affordable driving distance for them and there would be no additional expenses involved.

Southern Illinois Healthcare has committed to lead the "Cancer" fight for the people of this region. They've already shown their resolve by bringing more "Cancer" specialist here and by building accredited programs, such as The Breast Center, where the goal is detection to diagnosis in 24 hours. I can tell you from experience that they stick to that goal. Comprehensive medical treatment for "Cancer" close to home makes huge differences in the lives of those suffering from this relentless disease.

*Their American dream is living in Southern Illinois. Your decision will allow this region's "Cancer" patients to fight the disease where they find strength and hope-at home with their family and loved ones.*

*Respectfully,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria L. Peterson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

*Victoria L. Peterson  
1306 B Karris Lane  
Marion, Illinois 62959  
618-237-1122  
Breast Cancer Survivor*

**Margaret Flanagan**  
**1111 West Hill Avenue**  
**Carbondale, IL 62901**

March 14, 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 accept this letter as my wholehearted endorsement—without reservation—for Southern Illinois Healthcare's commitment to build and operate a freestanding cancer center in the heart of southern Illinois.

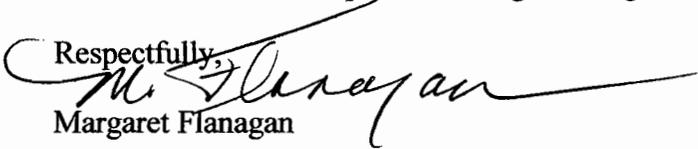
I have personal experience in understanding that for cancer patients in this region, the road to recovery is often the road itself. I have accompanied a number of friends and family members in making frequent trips to St Louis and Cape Girardeau, Missouri and Paducah, Kentucky in order for them to get their prescribed treatments. Not only is this road to recovery expensive, it is exhaustive mentally, physically and emotionally for the patient, their friends and families.

Hopefully this will not be the case any longer. With SIH's vision, cancer patients from throughout a seven county area of rural southern Illinois can receive streamlined care under one roof, centrally located along the Route 13 corridor. Medical oncology, radiation oncology, imaging, testing, infusion services, support, rehabilitation and recovery—just to name a few—will not be separated by miles, but by a few steps.

Many of the patients in the counties SIH serves are among the poorest and medically underserved regions in Illinois. In fact, the federal government designates each of the seven counties in SIH's service area as Health Professional Shortage Area(s) for Primary Care. Furthermore, many of these same counties have the highest cancer incident rates in the state.

SIH's mission to bring doctors, surgeons, nurses, radiologists and support staff together under one roof ensures these patients will get the right care at the right time in the right setting.

Respectfully,

  
Margaret Flanagan  
Care Giver

March 12, 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,

When I received my cancer diagnosis 15 years ago, I had to travel away from my home in Murphysboro to the St. Louis area for much of my care. This was a burden on my young family. It is with this experience in mind that I am taking this opportunity to endorse Southern Illinois Healthcare's effort to build a comprehensive, freestanding cancer center in our area.

With this new facility, patients throughout a seven county region of rural southern Illinois will not have the inconvenience or the need to endure added expense to receive quality care. Thousands of these patients live in the most impoverished counties of Illinois. Many of these counties have the additional misfortune of being among those with the highest cancer incidence rates in the state.

Instead of enduring long, tedious and expensive travel outside of Illinois, weary patients along with their family and friends will benefit from the streamlined, team-based care the SIH Cancer Center will now be able to provide under one roof. For the first time in our region, SIH would offer the full continuum of cancer care in a single locale. These vital services include radiation therapy, chemotherapy, a home for multidisciplinary teams for breast, lung, gastrointestinal, genitourinary and head and neck cancers, clinical trials, support, survivorship and rehabilitation care. The SIH Cancer Center also enjoys an academic affiliation with the Simmons Cancer Institute at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield. The breadth of this partnership brings additional, much-needed resources to southern Illinois.

Furthermore, many of the patients who will ultimately receive care at the SIH Cancer Center are among our state's most vulnerable--elderly, low-income and uninsured. In fact, all seven of the counties in SIH's service area are federally designated as "Health Professional Shortage Area(s) for Primary Medical Care."

It will be a wonderful addition for SIH to have a Center for Excellence in the area of cancer just as they have for cardiovascular. I wholeheartedly 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,



Mona R. Kerns  
Murphysboro, Illinois

March 1, 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'm writing this letter to express my support for the SIH Cancer Center building proposal in southern Illinois.

No matter where you live, the mention of the word "cancer" strikes fear. To begin with, a fear of the rigorous road someone is about to face. And for many, fear of the road itself.

If you are from southern Illinois, facing cancer has often meant frequent trips to a major metropolitan area, usually outside of our state's borders. Not only do these patients battle the disease itself, they also cope with the costs and struggles associated with simply getting the care, which can include high fuel rates, time away from work, hotel stays and meals. The love and support they so desperately need could be two hours away. For some, the means to get the care are too great.

Southern Illinois Healthcare has committed to lead the cancer fight for the people of this region. They've already shown their resolve by bringing more cancer specialists here and by building accredited programs, such as The Breast Center, where the goal is detection to diagnosis in 24 hours. Comprehensive medical treatment for cancer close to home makes huge differences in the lives of those suffering from this relentless disease.

Their American dream is living in southern Illinois. Your decision will allow this region's cancer patients to fight the disease where they find strength and hope—at home.

Respectfully,

*Mary H. Stalans*

March 1, 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'm writing this letter to express my support for the SIH Cancer Center building proposal in southern Illinois.

No matter where you live, the mention of the word "cancer" strikes fear. To begin with, a fear of the rigorous road someone is about to face. And for many, fear of the road itself.

If you are from southern Illinois, facing cancer has often meant frequent trips to a major metropolitan area, usually outside of our state's borders. Not only do these patients battle the disease itself, they also cope with the costs and struggles associated with simply getting the care, which can include high fuel rates, time away from work, hotel stays and meals. The love and support they so desperately need could be two hours away. For some, the means to get the care are too great.

Southern Illinois Healthcare has committed to lead the cancer fight for the people of this region. They've already shown their resolve by bringing more cancer specialists here and by building accredited programs, such as The Breast Center, where the goal is detection to diagnosis in 24 hours. Comprehensive medical treatment for cancer close to home makes huge differences in the lives of those suffering from this relentless disease.

Their American dream is living in southern Illinois. Your decision will allow this region's cancer patients to fight the disease where they find strength and hope—at home.

Respectfully,

*Grinda White*  
364 Parkway Vista Rd  
Murphysboro, IL 62966

March 1, 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'm writing this letter to express my support for the SIH Cancer Center building proposal in southern Illinois.

No matter where you live, the mention of the word "cancer" strikes fear. To begin with, a fear of the rigorous road someone is about to face. And for many, fear of the road itself.

If you are from southern Illinois, facing cancer has often meant frequent trips to a major metropolitan area, usually outside of our state's borders. Not only do these patients battle the disease itself, they also cope with the costs and struggles associated with simply getting the care, which can include high fuel rates, time away from work, hotel stays and meals. The love and support they so desperately need could be two hours away. For some, the means to get the care are too great.

Southern Illinois Healthcare has committed to lead the cancer fight for the people of this region. They've already shown their resolve by bringing more cancer specialists here and by building accredited programs, such as The Breast Center, where the goal is detection to diagnosis in 24 hours. Comprehensive medical treatment for cancer close to home makes huge differences in the lives of those suffering from this relentless disease.

Their American dream is living in southern Illinois. Your decision will allow this region's cancer patients to fight the disease where they find strength and hope—at home.

Respectfully,

*Jerry George*  
*I am a Breast Cancer Survivor*