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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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,

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.

For cancer patients in this region, the road to recovery is often the road itself. Patients often need to make frequent trips to a major metropolitan area outside Illinois. Doctors estimate that a cancer patient could log up to 100 trips to and from their appointments, infusions and hospitalizations in the first year of care alone. Not only is this road to recovery expensive, it is exhaustive mentally, physically and emotionally for the patient, their friends and families.

Not so the case anymore. 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,

*Adrian T. Auwiler, MD*  
*Center for Medical Arts,*  
*General Surgery*  
*Carbondale, IL*