

WILLIAM L. ENYART
12TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

enyart.house.gov

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE
OFFICE CHECKED BELOW:

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1312

13-069
COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES:
COMMITTEE ON
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES
READINESS
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
AND RISK MANAGEMENT
LIVESTOCK, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND CREDIT

January 30, 2014

Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W Jefferson St
Springfield, Illinois 62702

RECEIVED

FEB 18 2014

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Dear Administrator Avery:

Access to quality healthcare is as important to our region as to any other area of the country. Having met with the administrative officials at Southern Illinois Healthcare, I am impressed with their dedication and commitment to provide the highest quality of healthcare.

Along with their on-going recruitment efforts and meeting their vision to provide state-of-the-art facilities and services, SIH's commitment to meeting the needs of individual patients, regardless of their ability to pay, demonstrates their compassion and dedication to the communities they serve.

I wish to acknowledge Southern Illinois Healthcare's efforts to provide the highest quality of care possible and their dedication to their values of respect, integrity, compassion, collaboration, stewardship and accountability.

Sincerely,



William Enyart
Member of Congress

WE/dm

1722 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5661

SIUE East St. Louis Center
Building A, Room 1051
601 James R. Thompson Blvd.
East St. Louis, IL 62201
Tel: (618) 233-8026

23 Public Sq, Ste 404
Belleville, IL 62220
(618) 233-8026

1330 Swanwick St
Chester, IL 62233
(618) 826-3043

2060 Delmar Ave, Ste B
Granite City, IL 62040
(618) 451-7065

201 E Nolen St
West Frankfort, IL 62896
(618) 937-8402

250 W Cherry St
Carbondale, IL 62901
(618) 529-3791

1100 Main St
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
(618) 316-9035

JOHN M. SHIMKUS
15TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

2452 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5271

ENERGY AND COMMERCE
COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY
CHAIRMAN

HEALTH

ENERGY AND POWER
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1315

January 29, 2014

15 PROFESSIONAL PARK DRIVE
MARYVILLE, IL 62062
(618) 288-7190

CITY HALL, ROOM 12
110 EAST LOCUST STREET
HARRISBURG, IL 62946
(618) 252-8271

101 NORTH FOURTH STREET, SUITE 303
EFFINGHAM, IL 62401
(217) 347-7947

201 NORTH VERMILION STREET, SUITE 218
DANVILLE, IL 61832
(217) 466-0664

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities And Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, Floor 2
Springfield, IL 62702-5056

Dear Ms. Avery:

The need for access to quality healthcare for the constituents I am privileged to serve has been an important priority during my Congressional service.

Through my visits and conversations with officials at Southern Illinois Healthcare, I can attest to their commitment to provide the highest standards of care to all the citizens they serve throughout southern Illinois. Both I and my staff have appreciated the collaboration with SIH on various issues over the years and their compassion and dedication to their patients has been demonstrated numerous times.

Recently, my staff attended the ground-breaking of the new SIH Cancer Center which further exemplifies their commitment to the residents of the region.

I look forward to my continuing work with Southern Illinois Healthcare as they continue to provide the vital healthcare services needed for our current residents and for future generations.

Sincerely,



JOHN SHIMKUS
Member of Congress

JMS:PS

DISTRICT OFFICE:
903 W. WASHINGTON, SUITE 5
BENTON, ILLINOIS 62812
(618) 439-2504
(888) 439-2504
FAX (618) 438-3704



CAPITOL OFFICE:
535 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
(217) 782-5509
(217) 557-4978 FAX
www.Senatorforby.com

GARY FORBY
STATE SENATOR • 59TH DISTRICT

January 22, 2014

Courtney R. Avery
Administrator
Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

During my years of service as State Senator I have had numerous opportunities to work with the staff of Southern Illinois Healthcare. With each encounter, it is clear that they provide critical resources for high quality care for the residents of my District and for all of Southern Illinois.

Through recruitment and a focus on providing state-of-the-art resources, SIH has demonstrated their commitment to offer a comprehensive quality of care that would not require our residents to travel to other out-of-state facilities to receive appropriate diagnosis and treatment.

In our area served by SIH, our unemployment rates are high (5 out of 7 counties served are in double digits); our elderly and poor populations are high (20.2% of the poverty rate) and Medicaid enrollment for the area is 19.8% compared to the state average of 14%. With these challenges, we are truly fortunate to have a three hospital SIH system with a policy that no one is ever turned away for needed healthcare services, regardless of whether or not they can pay. I know their contributions to charity care along with bad debt losses goes into 10's of millions of dollars.

I welcome the opportunity to support Southern Illinois Healthcare as they continue to strive to provide access to the most comprehensive, up-to-date and highest quality of healthcare for all the citizens of our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Forby".

Gary Forby
State Senator

SIU School of Medicine

January 31, 2014

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

Re: Project #13-069 Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing to share my support for Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's planned expansion. This project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

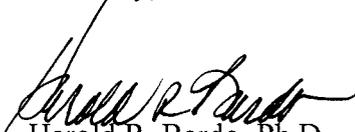
I have lived in Carbondale since 1957. I watched Memorial Hospital of Carbondale evolve and transform into the quality, regional healthcare provider that it is today. Gone are the days when friends and family would make the arduous trip to St. Louis, Springfield or Chicago for the cardiac care that is now available at Memorial. When the region's only neurosurgeons left nearly a decade ago, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale and parent Southern Illinois Healthcare were the first to aggressively recruit and restore a robust neurosciences program. Time and again, our regional community has depended on Memorial Hospital of Carbondale to provide the advanced care needed in one of the most impoverished areas of Illinois.

This stewardship is also demonstrated in the hospital's policy to provide care to patients, regardless of their ability to pay, through its charity care program. The hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of the communities it serves is well documented.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's modernization and expansion endeavor.

Thank you for your time and attention to this project. Please feel free to reach out to me at Wheeler Hall, Room 210, 975 South Normal Avenue, Carbondale, Illinois.

Sincerely,


Harold R. Bardo, Ph.D.
Director, MEDPREP

Medical/Dental Education Preparatory Program

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine | Wheeler Hall, Room 210 - Mail Code 4323
975 South Normal Avenue | Carbondale, Illinois 62901
(618) 536-6671 | Fax: (618) 453-1919 | www.siumed.edu/medprep

SIU School of Medicine

January 30, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Fl. 2
Springfield, IL 62761

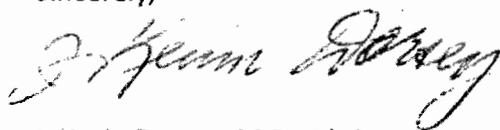
Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

I write in strong support of Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's planned expansion of their facility, specifically the increase in the number of intensive care beds, operating rooms and supporting services.

As the dean of the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, I am very familiar with Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's need to expand. First, the School trains first year medical students, physician's assistant students and family medicine residents at that site. As such, it serves a critical need in training health care providers for the southern tip of the state. Second, I lived and practiced medicine in Carbondale for 15 years and know how busy the hospital was as a regional referral center. As this hospital has added specialty physicians and services, the demand for beds and OR's has increased steadily. In order to continue to provide this level of care to our increasing number of patients, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale needs to expand its capacity.

If you would like to speak with me directly about this, please contact me at the address shown on the letterhead.

Sincerely,



J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean and Provost



Building Better Tomorrows...Today
www.buildingbettertomorrows.org

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
310 W. Plaza Dr.
Carterville, IL 62918
Toll Free (855) 608-3560
Fax (618) 985-1020

CORPORATE OFFICE
902 W. Main St.
West Frankfort, IL 62896
Phone (618) 937-6483
Fax (618) 937-1440

February 5, 2014

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

Re: Project #13-069 Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am taking this opportunity to share my support for Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's planned expansion. This project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

Over the years, I have watched Memorial Hospital of Carbondale evolve and transform into the quality, regional healthcare provider that it is today. Gone are the days when friends and family would make the tedious, fretful trek to St. Louis, Springfield or Chicago for the cardiac care that is now available in our own backyard. When the region's only neurosurgeons left nearly a decade ago, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, and parent Southern Illinois Healthcare, were the first to aggressively recruit, and restore a robust neurosciences program. Time and again, our regional community has depended on Memorial Hospital of Carbondale to provide the advanced kinds of care that were otherwise unheard of in one of the most impoverished areas of Illinois. It is the kind of care that keeps us here, when our loved ones need us the most.

This stewardship is also demonstrated in the hospital's policy to provide care to patients, regardless of their ability to pay, through its charity care program. The hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of the communities it serves is well documented.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's modernization and expansion endeavor.

Thank you for your time and attention to this project. Please feel free to reach out to me at john.markley@hgroup.org or, 310 W. Plaza Dr., Carterville, IL 62918.

Sincerely,

John G. Markley, MBA
Chief Executive Officer



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

February 5, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and services Review Board
525 West Jefferson (2nd Floor)
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing this letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's planned expansion. The project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

As a member of the region's business community, I can affirm Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's critical role as not only one of the region's largest employers, but also as a leading provider of quality healthcare as has been demonstrated in national accolades in cardiac and stroke care in recent years. Additionally, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale and parent organization Southern Illinois Healthcare have done what they said they were going to do by recruiting a number of new physicians and specialists so patients do not have to leave the region for the medical care they need. Furthermore, many of the communities in the hospital's service area are among the most impoverished in Illinois with a number of uninsured and underinsured patients. I applaud the organization's mission to provide care for their patients regardless of their ability to pay – a figure backed up by the substantial amount of charity care the hospital provides each year.

Memorial Hospital of Carbondale is vital to the economic strength of southern Illinois and to the thousands of patients that depend on the hospital every day. I would appreciate your kind consideration of Memorial's expansion request, which is vital to the healthcare needs of our people.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at 618/536-3471.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Poshard", written in a cursive style.

Glenn Poshard
President

Office of the President, Stone Center - Mail Code 6801, 1400 Douglas Drive, Carbondale, Illinois 62901



2/7/2014

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

Re: Project #13-069 Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am taking this opportunity to share my support for Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's planned expansion. This project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

Over the years, I have watched Memorial Hospital of Carbondale evolve and transform into the quality, regional healthcare provider that it is today. Gone are the days when friends and family would make the tedious, fretful trek to St. Louis, Springfield or Chicago for the cardiac care that is now available in our own backyard. When the region's only neurosurgeons left nearly a decade ago, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale and parent Southern Illinois Healthcare were the first to aggressively recruit and restore a robust neurosciences program. Time and again, our regional community has depended on Memorial Hospital of Carbondale to provide the advanced kinds of care that were otherwise unheard of in one of the most impoverished areas of Illinois. It is the kind of care that keeps us here, when our loved ones need us the most.

This stewardship is also demonstrated in the hospital's policy to provide care to patients, regardless of their ability to pay, through its charity care program. The hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of the communities it serves is well documented.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's modernization and expansion endeavor.

Thank you for your time and attention to this project. Please feel free to reach out to me at VNA/TIP Hospice, 8341 Express Drive, Ste. B, Marion, IL 62959.
E-mail: elizabeth.garrett@vnatip.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Garrett", written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth Garrett, MSW/LSW
VNA/TIP Hospice and Homecare

RECEIVED

FEB 18 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

February 2, 2014

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

Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is Lori Ash. I live in Christopher, Illinois. March 15, 2013 I was told I had colon cancer.

The "c" word is a big scary thing and you usually know someone that has it, but never think that it will be you. Well, it was me. I am a woman of faith and after some tears, I prayed and left it in God's hands. I knew I would be taken care of, yet I still had my part to do. I was referred to a wonderful surgeon, Dr. Dempsey. We (my family and I) went to the appointments, got the surgery scheduled and were extremely grateful for the kind, knowledgeable, compassionate and professional staff.

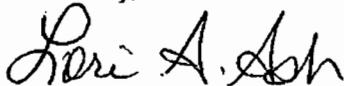
I am sharing this letter of support with you in regards to Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's pursuit of state approval for a major renovation and expansion. This project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

Being able to have my surgery and after care close to my home was such a blessing. Yes we could have one to the big cancer center that is in St. Louis, MO, but that is 2 plus hours away and would have been a large burden for my family to bear. The close proximity of the Carbondale Memorial Hospital and staff, helped make my journey with cancer bearable and much less of a burden. My family was able to support me with their prayers and presences.

I've watched Memorial Hospital of Carbondale grow into a sophisticated facility, one that offers the high-level kinds of surgeries and nationally recognized quality care you would expect from a larger, metropolitan area.

This is my hospital. And I'm proud to say it's in my own backyard. I wholeheartedly endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's proposed modernization and expansion plans and respectfully ask you to join me in support of this much-needed project. If you have additional questions, please contact me at 501 South Thomas St. Christopher, Illinois 62822.

Sincerely,



Lori Ash

Michael W. Monchino
12 Quail Run
Herrin, Illinois 62948

February 12, 2014

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

Re: Project #13-069 Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's planned expansion. Let me begin by acknowledging the need for expanded health care services in the communities and counties served by Memorial Hospital. The proposed project increases the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms that will satisfy the current requirement as well as address a future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

I moved to Southern Illinois in 1983 and have watched as Memorial Hospital of Carbondale evolved and transformed into a regional healthcare provider. Memorial Hospital has met the needs of the area and must look forward and aggressively do what is necessary to satisfy not only current requirements, but also future demand.

Having the facilities and being able to provide medical services locally reduces and possibly eliminates the need for patients to seek medical services outside the area. Allow me to provide an example that demonstrates the importance of providing health services that allows patient care close to home. Our family experience provides a personal perspective. About twenty-five years ago our son was delivered in Memorial Hospital. He was a premature baby. Because of limited capabilities available at that time at Memorial Hospital our son was transferred to a hospital in St. Louis. I cannot express into words the emotions that our family and friends experienced. The priority was the health of our son, but compounding our experience was many 225 mile round trips from our Southern Illinois home to the St. Louis Hospital. Even after our son came home there were many treks to St.

Louis for follow up medical visits. The time, cost, and emotional strain were immense on my wife and I as well as other family members and friends.

Today, with the many advances in services at Memorial Hospital, parents with pre-mature births will remain in Southern Illinois, get quality care, and never have an experience similar to our family's experience.

Because of forward thinking at Southern Illinois Healthcare residents no longer need to travel to St. Louis, Springfield, or Chicago for the cardiac care because it is now available in Southern Illinois. A decade ago the region's only neurosurgeons left. Memorial Hospital of Carbondale and parent Southern Illinois Healthcare were the first to aggressively recruit and bring to the area a robust neurosciences program.

For these reasons the proposed expansion and improvements are necessary and very important. As Southern Illinois grows healthcare must meet the needs. The economic impact of expanded services must also be considered. As a business owner and employer I have brought many new employees to the area. I have found common questions are asked by applicants during their evaluation of a move to Southern Illinois. The questions asked are about schools, safety, and quality of health care. One must also consider when health care services are provided locally, money spent on those services stays in the region rather than removing funds from the local economy, and possibly from the State of Illinois. Therefore, improved access to health care is a quality community amenity as well as an economic advantage for all residents of Southern Illinois that cannot be ignored.

Much can also be said about Memorial Hospital and Southern Illinois Healthcare's position for those less fortunate. This is demonstrated in the hospital's policy to provide care to patients, regardless of their ability to pay, through its charity care program. The hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of the communities it serves is well documented.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly and fully support and endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's modernization and expansion endeavor. The proposed expansion is a win for all of Southern Illinois!

Thank you for your time and consideration to this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Monchino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Michael W. Monchino

February 4, 2014

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

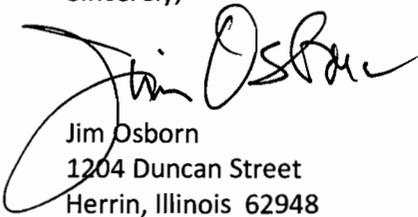
I write this letter in support of Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's planned expansion. Among other notable benefits, the project proposes to increase the number of intensive care beds, add operating rooms and prepare the facility to treat more patients in the future.

In the sixteen years that I have lived in southern Illinois, I have watched as Southern Illinois Healthcare and its three hospitals transformed the scope and quality of healthcare services in the region. Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, as the flagship hospital of the System, has taken the lead with many of these innovations in patient care. I remember when many patients and families had to leave the area and travel to St. Louis, Springfield, Cape Girardeau, Evansville, and even Chicago for necessary care. Thanks to the development of new state-of-the-art services, the number of families having to make those treks has been reduced significantly. Families, now, have come to depend on SIH and in particular, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, for their most serious healthcare needs....and I firmly believe that being able to access high quality services close to home and close to friends and family enhances the healing process. Unfortunately, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's resources are being squeezed by high demand and high utilization. I applaud SIH and Southern Illinois Healthcare to continue to invest in their facilities and equipment to meet the needs of the region.

SIH has demonstrated its commitment to its corporate value of stewardship by continuing to provide the same high quality services to all patients of the region regardless of their ability to pay. Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's charity care program is only a part of the hospital's ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of the communities in the region that they serve.

I fully support and endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's modernization and expansion plan. Thank you for your time and attention to this project. If you would like to contact me directly, I would be happy to voice my support or answer any questions that I can.

Sincerely,



Jim Osborn
1204 Duncan Street
Herrin, Illinois 62948

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

Re: Project #13-069 Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Ms. Avery,

I am writing to show my support for the planned expansion, by Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, to increase the delivery of their best in the area health care services. While the expansion is for more surgical space, ICU beds and specialty patient needs, it is also about the expansion of compassionate, first class health care they provide and which I have personally been a witness.

On March 1st, 2010 I was stricken with a massive heart attack. Prior to SIH, and Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, having the vision, cardiologists and the Heart Stat program in place, the only health care choice available would have been to fly me to St. Louis.

I would have died in route!

Every person involved, in saving my life, treated my family and me as if we were their own! They all gave their best, to insure a life was saved, with compassion and sincere concern for a fellow human being.

This kind of health care needs to continue, and more importantly, be expanded for the every growing need of Southern Illinois.

Carbondale is the focal center of Southern Illinois as it is also home to the largest employer, Southern Illinois University, and surrounded by bedroom communities who look to Carbondale as the economic backbone of the region. This is another reason Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has grown, as they are also regarded as the health care leader of this region of Southern Illinois.

They are a leader in providing support services for patients after release, from cardiac rehab to Parkinson's support groups; the total care of the patient is at the forefront of their visionary mission.

I could not endorse or support a hospital more, for needed health care expansion in Southern Illinois, than Memorial Hospital of Carbondale!

Thank you for your time,

Rick Runge

1515 Gartside

Murphysboro, IL 62966

618-521-2490

rrunge@frontier.com



200 South Illinois Avenue
P.O. Box 2047
Carbondale, Illinois 62902-2047
Telephone: 618-457-3226
Fax: 618-457-3224
www.explorecarbndale.com

RECEIVED

FEB 18 2014

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

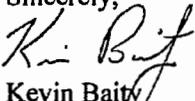
Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing this letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's planned expansion. The project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

As the City Manager, I can attest to Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's critical role as a major southern Illinois employer, but also as a leading provider of quality healthcare as has been demonstrated in national accolades in cardiac and stroke care in recent years. Additionally, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale and parent organization Southern Illinois Healthcare has done an exceptional job at staffing their hospital with exceptional doctors which insures they can service the needs of southern Illinois residents which prevents residents from seeking healthcare outside of our region. Finally, we appreciate Memorial Hospital's efforts in serving uninsured and underinsured patients in one of the poorest regions of the state, including Carbondale.

Memorial Hospital of Carbondale is vital to the economic strength of southern Illinois and to the thousands of patients that depend on the hospital every day. We sincerely hope that their proposed project is approved.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at 618-457-3226.

Sincerely,

Kevin Baity
City Manager

Home of Southern Illinois University



2/6/2014

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

Re: Project #13-069 Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am taking this opportunity to share my support for Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's planned expansion. This project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

Over the years, I have watched Memorial Hospital of Carbondale evolve and transform into the quality, regional healthcare provider that it is today. Gone are the days when friends and family would make the tedious, fretful trek to St. Louis, Springfield or Chicago for the cardiac care that is now available in our own backyard. When the region's only neurosurgeons left nearly a decade ago, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale and parent Southern Illinois Healthcare were the first to aggressively recruit and restore a robust neurosciences program. Time and again, our regional community has depended on Memorial Hospital of Carbondale to provide the advanced kinds of care that were otherwise unheard of in one of the most impoverished areas of Illinois. It is the kind of care that keeps us here, when our loved ones need us the most.

This stewardship is also demonstrated in the hospital's policy to provide care to patients, regardless of their ability to pay, through its charity care program. The hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of the communities it serves is well documented.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's modernization and expansion endeavor.

Thank you for your time and attention to this project. Please feel free to reach out to me at VNA/TIP Hospice, 8341 Express Drive, Ste. B, Marion, IL 62959.
E-mail: jeanette.beckemeyer@vnatip.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jeanette Beckemeyer'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanette Beckemeyer, MSW
VNA/TIP Hospice and Homecare



FAGER-McGEE

COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

February 5, 2014

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

Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing this letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's planned expansion. The project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

As a member of the region's business community, I can affirm Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's critical role as not only one of the region's largest employers, but also as a leading provider of quality healthcare as has been demonstrated in national accolades in cardiac and stroke care in recent years. Additionally, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale and parent organization Southern Illinois Healthcare have done what they said they were going to do by recruiting a number of new physicians and specialists so patients do not have to leave the region for the medical care they need. Furthermore, many of the communities in the hospital's service area are among the most impoverished in Illinois with a number of uninsured and underinsured patients. I applaud the organization's mission to provide care for their patients regardless of their ability to pay – a figure backed up by the substantial amount of charity care the hospital provides each year.

Memorial Hospital of Carbondale is vital to the economic strength of southern Illinois and to the thousands of patients that depend on the hospital every day.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at 347 S. Williams Street, Murphysboro, IL 62966.

Sincerely,

Fager-McGee Commercial Construction, Inc.

Bradley E. Fager
Owner

Feb. 5, 2013

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

Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

On behalf of the membership of the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce and the Carbondale business community, please accept this letter of support for Southern Illinois Healthcare's proposed expansion of Memorial Hospital of Carbondale.

Carbondale has a long history as a center for quality health care, but all too often, patients who desire advanced treatment or critical care from our region are forced to seek this care elsewhere simply because our hospital does not have the facilities available to care for these needs. The proposed enhancements would ensure that more quality care would be available to more Southern Illinoisans.

I am certain that you realize these improvements to Memorial Hospital of Carbondale will be beneficial as SIH recruits physicians and medical providers to serve our area. Equally important, is the multiplier effect to our community and region as a whole. With added facilities, services and providers, our community becomes even more of a destination for health care for the entire region. This benefits not only patients, but also our businesses both in and out of the health care sector.

Memorial Hospital of Carbondale is an economic anchor and a catalyst for growth for Carbondale. For that reason, the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce wholeheartedly supports and endorses efforts to expand facilities at the hospital.

Sincerely,



Les O'Dell
Executive Director



Carbondale Business Development

C O R P O R A T I O N

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

Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the Carbondale Business Development Corporation Board of Directors to enthusiastically endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's planned expansion. The project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

As the President of the Carbondale Business Development Corporation, I can attest to Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's critical role as a major southern Illinois employer, but also as a leading provider of quality healthcare as has been demonstrated in national accolades in cardiac and stroke care in recent years. Memorial Hospital of Carbondale and parent organization Southern Illinois Healthcare has done an exceptional job at staffing their hospital with exceptional doctors which insures they can service the needs of southern Illinois residents which prevents residents from seeking healthcare outside of our region. Finally, we appreciate Memorial Hospital's efforts in serving uninsured and underinsured patients in one of the poorest regions of the state, including Carbondale.

Memorial Hospital of Carbondale is vital to the economic strength of Carbondale and southern Illinois, as well as to the thousands of patients that depend on the hospital every day. We believe their proposed project serves a regional need and fully support their request to expand.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at 618-457-3226.

Sincerely,

Bill Oliver

Bill Oliver
President

February 4, 2014



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF CARBONDALE

To: The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
c/o: Cathy Blythe, MBA
System Manager, Planning & Physician Recruitment
Southern Illinois Healthcare
1239 East Main
Carbondale, IL 62902

**Boys & Girls Club
of Carbondale**
250 N. Springer Street
PO Box 3092
Carbondale, IL 62902
Tel: (618) 457-8877

Re: Project #13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale.

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club of Carbondale, our Board of Directors, and staff. We feel that the prospect for expansion of Memorial Hospital of Carbondale is a much needed and welcome investment in the well being of the community and its citizens.

Over the years, we have watched Memorial Hospital of Carbondale evolve and transform into the quality, regional healthcare provider that it is today. Gone are the days when friends and family would make the difficult trek to St. Louis, Springfield or Chicago for the cardiac care that is now available in our own backyard. When the region's only neurosurgeons left nearly a decade ago, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale and parent Southern Illinois Healthcare were the first to aggressively recruit and restore a robust neurosciences program. Time and again, our regional community has depended on Memorial Hospital of Carbondale to provide the advanced kinds of care that were otherwise unheard of in one of the most impoverished areas of Illinois. It is the kind of care that keeps us here, when our loved ones need us the most. This stewardship is also demonstrated in the hospital's policy to provide care to patients, regardless of their ability to pay, through its charity care program. The hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of the communities it serves is well documented.

In conclusion, we wholeheartedly endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's modernization and expansion endeavor. Thank you for your time and attention to this project. Please feel free to reach out to me at Boys & Girls Club of Carbondale; P.O. Box 3092; Carbondale, IL 62902.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Osborn". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Randy Osborn

Executive Director

Boys & Girls Club of Carbondale

**CITY OF HERRIN****MARLENE SIMPSON, CITY CLERK**

300 NORTH PARK AVENUE

HERRIN, ILLINOIS 62948

January 30, 2014

(618) 942-3175 • Fax (618) 942-2296

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

Re: Project #13-069 Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am taking this opportunity to share my support for Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's planned expansion. This project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

Over the years, I have watched Memorial Hospital of Carbondale evolve and transform in to the quality, regional healthcare provider that it is today. Gone are the days when friends and family would make the tedious, fretful trek to St. Louis, Springfield or Chicago for the cardiac care that is now available in our own backyard. When the region's only neurosurgeons left nearly a decade ago, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale and parent Southern Illinois Healthcare were the first to aggressively recruit and restore a robust neurosciences program. Time and again, our regional community has depended on Memorial Hospital of Carbondale to provide the advanced kinds of care that were otherwise unheard of in one of the most impoverished areas of Illinois. It is the kind of care that keeps us here, when our loved ones need us the most.

This stewardship is also demonstrated in the hospital's policy to provide care to patients, regardless of their ability to pay, through its charity care program. The hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of the communities it serves is well documented.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's modernization and expansion endeavor.

Thank you for your time and attention to this project. Please feel free to reach out to me at 300 N> Park Avenue, Herrin, IL 62948.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marlene".

Marlene Simpson
City Clerk & SIH Board Member



1915 West Main Street • Carbondale, Illinois 62901
Ph: 618.529.3400 • Fax: 618.529.1034 • Web: www.murdale.com • Email: gsheffer@murdale.com

February 5, 2014

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

Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

Southern Illinois Healthcare is the backbone of our region serving not just Carbondale, but all of southern Illinois. We have some of the poorest counties in Illinois and finding medical care close by is of the utmost importance to the people in our area.

SIH continues to grow to serve the needs of those battling serious illnesses. We need accessible medical services that would eliminate the need to travel to bigger cities. Receiving treatment near family and friends for support is an important factor in any recovery.

SIH is one of the largest employers in southern Illinois which has a high unemployment rate. When a hospital expands it not only benefits healthcare in our region, but also puts more people to work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Sheffer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "S" and "F".

George V. Sheffer
President

P

RECEIVED

January 30, 2014

FEB 18 2014

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

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery:

First, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. We are Gene & Cindy Palisch and live in Carbondale. We have both been patients at Memorial Hospital, Gene had four way bypass surgery (he was the first patient to have heart surgery at Memorial) plus he had double knee replacement. Cindy had both hip replacement surgeries done at Memorial. We cannot say enough positive things about the Doctors and the entire care giving staff during our surgeries and our stay in the hospital. Everyone was extremely professional and we both feel we received excellent care.

We feel part of the healing process is to be near family and friends and in your "comfort zone" environment. For us, being able to have all our medical needs taken care near our home, was a tremendous comfort and help. Cindy was still recovering from hip replacement surgery when Gene was admitted for bypass surgery. Needless to say, it would have been very difficult for her to travel away from Carbondale to be with him if we had not been so fortunate to have his medical needs met here.

We feel this area is very lucky to have such a large group of exceptional medical personnel to take care of whatever medical needs arise. Hopefully, we will not need to have any other in-patient stays, but if we do, rest assured, Carbondale Memorial would be the hospital we would choose.

Thank you for considering our story in support of Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's planned expansion. We feel the fact that there is a need for the expansion speaks volumes of the work being done at Carbondale Memorial and the benefit it is to our community.

Sincerely,

Gene & Cindy

Gene & Cindy Palisch
471 Phillips Road
Carbondale, Illinois 62902
618-529-5014

WorkCare

Occupational Health

February 10, 2014

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

Re: Project #13-069 Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am Mark D. Austin, D.O. and I have been working as an occupational medicine physician for the Southern Illinois Healthcare Medical Group in Herrin, Illinois since June 2008. I am writing this letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's proposed modernization and expansion. This project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

As the regions only tertiary care facility, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has continued to grow in size and in the scope of the services it provides to our regional community. Many of our patients come from nearby counties with some of the highest unemployment rates in the state. For them, having access to advanced surgical care close to home not only helps them physically, but also financially. In addition, the hospital's willingness to provide care to our patients regardless of their ability to pay eases yet another seemingly insurmountable burden for those vulnerable populations that need help the most. The proximity and ready availability of the advanced cardiac care services provided through the Prairie Heart Institute in conjunction with Memorial Hospital of Carbondale have indeed proven to be life saving for some of my patients.

Over the years, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has continued to successfully pursue and recruit a variety of family practice physicians and surgical specialists, and subspecialists in the fields of heart, neurosurgery, and neurology and cancer in particular. Demand for these types of complex surgeries is on the rise, as is the space needed within the operating suites and intensive care unit to accommodate these patients and surgical specialists. As we continue to grow and expand our services, I have had to refer fewer of my patients out of the state to Cape Girardeau or St. Louis, for specialty services.

I whole heartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to take this region to yet another higher level of sophisticated, exceptional healthcare. Thank you in advance for your valuable time and your consideration of this much needed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark D. Austin, D.O.", written in a cursive style.

Mark D. Austin, D.O. (Medical Director)

WorkCare/ Occupational Health
500 Lincoln Drive, Suite D
Herrin, IL 62948

SIH MEDICAL GROUP

Colon & Rectal Surgery



305 W Jackson Street, Ste 300
Carbondale, IL 62901
T 618.457.3006

February 10, 2014

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

Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

I have been working as a Colon and Rectal Surgeon for SIH Medical Group in Carbondale, IL since August 2013. I am writing to you to express my support for the proposed expansion project at Memorial Hospital of Carbondale.

This hospital has been admirably serving the people of Southern Illinois as a tertiary care facility. The availability of various medical and surgical subspecialties here in recent times has further enhanced the hospital's ability to function as a referral center for complicated patients. This has been a boon to the population in surrounding counties, who would otherwise have to travel long distances to other cities to obtain healthcare.

I strongly believe and share in Southern Illinois Healthcare's vision for providing high-level health services and uplifting the health status of the community. Expansion of the Intensive Care Unit and Operating Rooms at Memorial Hospital of Carbondale would be a key element of being able to provide these services to the people of Southern Illinois.

I would like to, once again, enthusiastically support the Certificate of Need that would enable the hospital to embark upon this crucial project. Please contact me with any questions by phone at 618-457-3006 or by mail at 305 W Jackson Street, Suite 300, Carbondale, IL 62901.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S. Bhattacharya", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Satyadeep Bhattacharya, MD

SIH MEDICAL GROUP

General Surgery



305 W Jackson Street, Ste 302, Carbondale, IL 62901

February 5, 2014

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

RE: PROJECT 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing this letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's proposed modernization and expansion. The project proposes to increase the number of intensive care beds and operating rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients. As the region's only tertiary care facility, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has continued to grow in size and in scope of the services it provides to our regional community. Many of my patients come from nearby counties with some of the highest unemployment rates in the state. For them, having access to advanced surgical care close to home not only helps them physically, but also financially. In addition, the hospital's willingness to provide care to my patients regardless of their ability to pay eases yet another seemingly insurmountable burden for those vulnerable populations that need help most.

Over the years, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has continued to successfully pursue and recruit a variety of family practice physicians and surgical specialists and subspecialists in the fields of heart, neurosurgery, neurology, and cancer in particular. Demand for these types of complex surgeries is on the rise as is the space needed within the operating suites and intensive care unit to accommodate these patients and surgical specialists. My wife and I have both been the recipient of such specialized care and the ability of my wife to obtain complex kidney surgery when she had kidney cancer and specialized breast surgery when she had breast cancer was greatly appreciated. I, myself, required emergency coronary artery bypass 5 years ago, and 1 year ago required emergency surgery for a broken back; both of which were expertly and

(CONTINUED)

February 5, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson – Second Floor

RE: PROJECT 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale

PAGE 2

compassionately provided at Memorial Hospital of Carbondale. Continuing to support such advanced care locally is an urgent and worthwhile need and I wholeheartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the certificate of need to take this region to yet another higher level of sophisticated exceptional healthcare.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David D. Clutts", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David D. Clutts, M.D., F.A.C.S.

General Surgeon

DDC:tm

February 4, 2014

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

Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

This is Dr. Carlos Gonzalez, I will start working as a General Surgeon at Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's on July 2014. I am writing this letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's proposed modernization and expansion. The project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

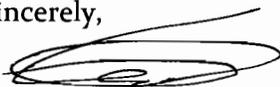
I consider an outstanding idea that Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has the option to continue to grow in size and in scope of the services it provides to our regional community. My patients will come from nearby counties with some of the highest unemployment rates in the state. For them, having access to advanced surgical care close to home not only helps them physically, but also financially. In addition, the hospital's willingness to provide care to my patients – regardless of their ability to pay – eases yet another seemingly insurmountable burden for those vulnerable populations that need help the most.

This expansion project will allow me to broaden my surgical practice performing more complex surgical interventions that will need better post-operative intensive care units. Patients will benefit from this instead of being transfer to another center to provide higher level of care.

I wholeheartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to take this region to yet another higher level of sophisticated, exceptional health care.

Thank you for your consideration of this really needed project

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlos R Gonzalez Rendon', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Carlos R Gonzalez Rendon

SIH MEDICAL GROUP



19 E Shawnee Drive, Ste 1
Murphysboro, IL 62966
T 618.565.2133

February 6, 2014

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

Re: Project #13-069 Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is Adrian P. Martin, MD, FACS. I am a General Surgeon with the SIH Medical Group, and have been in practice in Carbondale, IL for over seven years. Most of my patients are treated at the Memorial Hospital of Carbondale (MHC).

I am writing this letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's proposed modernization and expansion. The project proposes to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms to address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for patients.

During the last 4-5 years, and especially since 2012, I have witnessed a tremendous growth of the Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH) system, and specifically a dramatic expansion of services offered at MHC, SIH's flagship facility. The newly implemented and rapidly expanding Hospitalist program, together with adding many surgical and medical specialists and subspecialists, resulted in an afflux of new patients, who would otherwise be obligated to travel long distances to get their treatment at facilities in St. Louis or other larger centers.

Our Surgery Department has added new robotic and advanced laparoscopic capabilities. Our team was completed by Colo-Rectal and Oncologic Surgery sub-specialists, and our 24/7 on call availability attracts emergency transfers from all over Southern Illinois. Equivalent changes have occurred in many other specialties.

SIH MEDICAL GROUP



19 E Shawnee Drive, Ste 1

Murphysboro, IL 62966

T 618.565.2133

This overall growth has transformed MHC into a de facto tertiary care center serving the area, and keeping our patients closer to home is a great benefit for them. However, this rapid growth has also resulted in the facility being unable to accommodate the demand for these more complex, and more time and resource consuming therapies.

We find ourselves frequently unable to accept patients because of lack of ICU or even regular floor beds; we have to operate late at night, or to postpone scheduled cases, and our new colleagues find it difficult to find block time for their cases. This "bottleneck" effect negatively affects the well-being of patients and staff, and does not allow us to be as efficient as we would like to be.

The proposed expansion requested by SIH would certainly alleviate many of these problems, allowing our Hospital to physically catch up with the demand, and reach its potential.

Thank you for your consideration of this much-needed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. P. Martin", written over a horizontal line.

Adrian P. Martin, MD, FACS

February, 7th 2014

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

Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

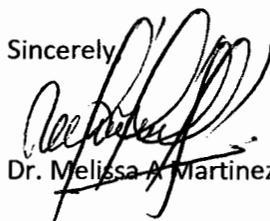
Dear Mrs. Avery,

I am a future Gastroenterologist that will start working in Carbondale in 2015. I am writing this letter of support to strongly endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's proposed modernization and expansion. The objective of this project is to increase the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms. There is currently, per report, a shortage of beds and surgical space in this facility; this I consider that will become an even bigger concern as Carbondale continues to grow and Memorial Hospital of Carbondale continues to receive and care for patients from nearby counties; as a physician, I consider that we need to be able to provide timely and high-quality service to our patients.

As the region's only tertiary care facility, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has continued to grow in size and is willing to provide care for patients regardless of their ability to pay, therefore covering healthcare needs for those vulnerable patients. As Memorial Hospital of Carbondale continues to grow to meet the healthcare needs of both Carbondale and nearby counties, various specialty physicians are being recruited, this includes physicians dedicated to a variety of surgical specialties (neurosurgery, oncology, amongst others), which furthermore increases the need to be able to provide an equipped facility, OR space, Intensive care unit beds and nursing staff to be able to perform cutting edge procedures, complex surgeries and give the best possible care to our patients.

As a future Gastroenterologist practicing in Carbondale, the availability of more Operating rooms and more Intensive Care Unit beds will both make me feel more comfortable on performing more advanced endoscopic procedures especially in high risk patients, therefore, I profoundly feel that the approval of this project is necessary and fully endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to take this region to yet another higher level of sophisticated, exceptional health care.

Sincerely,



Dr. Melissa A. Martinez Mateo

SIH MEDICAL GROUP

CardioThoracic Surgery



409 W Oak Street, Ste 202
Carbondale, IL 62901
T 618.529.0555

February 11, 2014

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

Re: Project 13-069, Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Carbondale

Dear Ms. Avery,

I have been working as a CardioThoracic Surgeon for SIH Medical Group at Memorial Hospital of Carbondale since August 2011. I am writing to you to express my support for the proposed expansion project at Memorial Hospital of Carbondale.

Memorial Hospital of Carbondale is the only tertiary care facility in Southern Illinois and is continuously growing the services it provides to our community. Having access to surgical care close to home provides physical and financial benefits to my patients who would have otherwise had to travel long distances for their cardiac, thoracic, or vascular surgery needs.

I share Southern Illinois Healthcare's vision to improve the health and well-being of the people in Southern Illinois. With the demand for complex heart and lung surgeries on the rise, I wholeheartedly believe that the proposed increase in the number of Intensive Care beds and Operating Rooms will address the current and future shortage of beds and surgical space needed to care for my patients.

I enthusiastically endorse Memorial Hospital of Carbondale's pursuit of the Certificate of Need that would enable the hospital to expand the already exceptional health care it provides to this region.

Yours Sincerely,

John W. Watson, MD

The signature is a fluid, cursive handwritten mark in black ink, appearing to read 'John W. Watson'.