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**GARY FORBY**  
STATE SENATOR · 59<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 23 2015**

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

Springfield, IL 62764

Re: Project #15-007 Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

I would like to take this opportunity to share how essential Herrin Hospital is to the greater southern Illinois community as a provider of quality care for over a century. As a safety net hospital in a region with 20.8% poverty level, I have always appreciated the organization's mission to provide healthcare to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. Their organizational values are clearly documented, as Herrin Hospital consistently provides a tremendous amount of charity care via its Health Assistance Program and bad debt write-offs. In fact, during fiscal year 2014, Herrin Hospital's total charity care amount totaled \$14,168,026, an increase of over 26% from 2012.

The Hospital's physician recruitment efforts have brought over a half-dozen surgical specialists to the facility in recent years, which has decreased outmigration for inpatient and outpatient surgeries. Ongoing recruitment efforts aim to bring in at least three more surgical specialists over the next 12 to 18 months. This is especially crucial for low-income and vulnerable families in southern Illinois, particularly due in part to the region's dual designation as a Health Professional Shortage Area and a Medically Underserved Area.

As a legislator whose district includes Herrin Hospital, I can attest to the hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of the communities it serves and look forward to the facility's growth and development in the years to come.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Forby".

State Senator Gary Forby- 59<sup>th</sup> district

March 17, 2015

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

Re: Project #15-007 Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

We are submitting this formal letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. We can attest to the facility's commitment to our community not only as a provider of healthcare, but also as a business leader and good steward. It is simply "our place" that cares for us on a 24-7 basis and offers us big city healthcare in a small town setting.

For example, when the city's largest employer, Maytag, closed its doors nearly 13 years ago, this hospital assisted city and economic development leaders in retraining displaced workers. This joint endeavor ultimately resulted in new, lifelong health care careers for many of former Maytag employees. Today, the hospital provides jobs to over 900 residents from across the region. We are especially grateful for the hospital's forward-thinking physician recruitment efforts and the breadth and depth of surgical specialists that now offer services at our hometown hospital. Over its 100-year history, "our hospital" has grown in size and sophistication. We know from the dramatic increase in surgical cases over the last few years that this modernization and expansion is needed.

We wholeheartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to usher in another era of consistent, advanced health care in southern Illinois. We want this place of compassion, care, concern and fine medical care to be there for us, for our children, our grandchildren and all of the residents in the region who choose Herrin Hospital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert & Cheryl Trench". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Robert and Cheryl Trench  
509 East Clark Trail  
Herrin, IL 62948



March 17, 2015

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

Re: Project #15-007, Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

Please accept my letter of support for the proposed modernization and expansion of surgical services at Herrin Hospital. The project proposes to not only replace and expand antiquated operating room space, but also update and expand several ancillary areas to surgical services, including but not limited to replacement and modernization of endoscopy and minor procedure rooms, and replacement and expansion of surgical prep and post-anesthesia recovery.

This request comes on the heels of dramatic increases in surgical cases and surgical hours over the last four years in particular. With the successful recruitment of additional surgical specialists to meet the regional health needs of our community, operating room space is well over capacity, partly because of the recent construction of a non-surgical cancer center. At present, the existing operating rooms are extremely small in size by current clinical standards. With the proliferation of high-tech equipment and larger beds that are used today, the lack of space is a significant drawback.

This proposed modernization and expansion will not only reduce outmigration to nearby states for advanced care, but will also continue to meet the health needs of the regional community, which includes some of the most vulnerable patient populations in Illinois. The residents of Herrin and the surrounding communities are extremely loyal to their hospital and would prefer to stay in this area for their health care rather than driving 2.5 hours away for care in St. Louis.

As a safety net health system, parent company Southern Illinois Healthcare provides a significant level of care to low-income and uninsured patients, with a large portion of that care being provided at Herrin Hospital. Please allow us to build the proper facilities to provide this care.

Thank you for your consideration of this most worthwhile project.

With regards,

Terrence P. Glennon, MD  
Medical Director  
SIH-RIC Rehabilitation Services

Herrin Hospital  
Rehabilitation Services  
201 S. 14th Street  
Herrin, IL 62948  
618.942.2171  
Fax: 618.351.4926

Memorial Hospital of Carbondale  
Rehabilitation Services  
405 W. Jackson Street  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
618.549.0721  
Fax: 618.529.0419

St. Joseph Memorial Hospital  
Rehabilitation Services  
2 S. Hospital Drive  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
618.684.3156  
Fax: 618.684.3328

March 18, 2015

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

Re: Project #15-007 Herrin Hospital

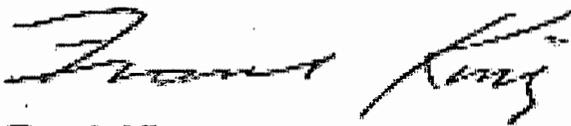
Dear Ms. Avery,

I am submitting this formal letter of support endorsing Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. As a lifelong resident of the city of Herrin, I cannot adequately express how important Herrin Hospital is to my community, not only as an employer of over 900 people but more importantly as a provider of outstanding healthcare to not only Herrin but the surrounding communities as well.

Not only is Herrin Hospital committed to providing outstanding healthcare regardless of a person's ability to pay, they are dedicated to this community as a business leader and good steward.

I wholeheartedly endorse Herrin Hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to go forward for with this needed expansion project.

Sincerely,



Frank King  
412 Mine B Road  
Herrin, IL 62948