



December 15, 2017

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
c/o Courtney Avery, Administrator
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

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Re: Project Number (17-051)

**Letter of Support for the OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony's Cancer Center
HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

As Chairperson of the American Cancer Society ("ACS") of Madison County Board, I am writing this letter to express my support of the OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony's Cancer Society. Our Board is very involved in providing support for the critical programs that the American Cancer Society provides to cancer patients, survivors and their families. We have two very active Board Members representing OSF HealthCare who provide us tremendous insight on the successes and challenges of treating this terrible disease. The involvement of OSF Saint Anthony plays a critical role in the success of our mission goals.

Since the beginning of my involvement on the ACS Board, it is very clear how important it is to provide high quality oncology services in our local Alton/Riverbend community. Local services lessen the burden on patients and families due to less travel for treatments and services, keeping costs down and making it more convenient. The new Cancer Center that will be located on the OSF Saint Anthony's campus brings much needed oncology services in a unified state-of-the-art building with leading technology to make the delivery of high-quality cancer services convenient and accessible for patients here in the Alton/Riverbend community. The need is highlighted by the fact that Madison County has the highest incidence of cancer cases outside of the significantly higher populated Cook County (Chicago) and other collar counties.

I have been a resident of the Alton area for over 17 years and have seen firsthand OSF HealthCare's commitment to the health and wellness of the Alton/Riverbend community and Illinois. They have a strong reputation as a leading clinical oncology team in the region. This new Cancer Center will build on this reputation, and will be designed around the needs of the patient – guiding them from detection to survivorship – all in one place.

The American Cancer Society Board of Madison County will continue to remain active in supporting the patients, survivors and their family. We value the involvement, insight and good work that OSF HealthCare provides and we support the Certificate of Need application for the Cancer Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Schwartz".

Robert Schwartz
Chairperson

American Cancer Society Regional Leadership Board - Madison County

American Cancer Society, Inc. - Southern Illinois Region
#5 Schiber Court, Maryville, IL 62062 t) 618.288.2320 f) 618.288.2054
Cancer Information 1.800.ACS.2345 www.cancer.org