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COMMITTEES:

- REVENUE & FINANCE - CHAIRMAN
- JUDICIARY
- LABOR & COMMERCE
- AGRICULTURE & CONSERVATION

JOHN E. BRADLEY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 117TH DISTRICT
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

RECEIVED

MAR 20 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

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

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 a 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 over 26% from 2012.

The hospital's physician recruitment efforts have brought over a half-dozen surgical specialists to the facility in recent years. This has helped to decrease 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 region includes Herrin Hospital, I can attest to the hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of the communities it serves. I look forward to the facility's growth and development in the years to come.

Sincerely,

John Bradley
IL House of Representatives
District 117



THE BANK OF HERRIN

March 17, 2015

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

Re: Project #15-007 Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am submitting this formal letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. As a lifelong resident of the city of Herrin, I can attest to the facility's commitment to my community not only as a provider of healthcare, but also as a business leader and good steward.

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. I am also especially grateful the hospital's forward-thinking physician recruitment efforts and the breadth and depth of surgical specialists that now offer services at my hometown hospital. Over its 100-year history, "my hospital" has grown in size and sophistication; and I know from the dramatic increase in surgical cases over the last few years that this modernization and expansion is needed.

I wholeheartedly endorse the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to usher in another era of consistent, advanced health care in southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Barbara Jacobs
Vice President & Trust Officer

HERRIN

101 S. PARK AVE. PO BOX B
HERRIN, IL 62948
P: 618.942.6666
F: 618.942.3618

CARTERVILLE

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ENERGY

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March 18, 2015

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

Re: Project #15-007 Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

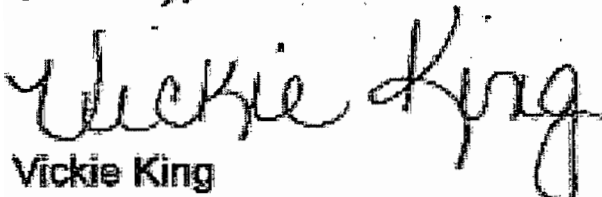
I am submitting this formal letter of support endorsing Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. I have lived in Herrin for more than 35 years and I am extremely proud that Herrin Hospital is a part of our community.

It is a comfort as a resident of Herrin to know that we have such an outstanding healthcare facility. A family member recently had surgery at Herrin Hospital and I have another family member scheduled for surgery in a few weeks. I am so grateful that they can have these procedures done right here at home and know that they are receiving the best care.

I truly feel that Herrin Hospital is the "heartbeat" of our city. The growth that has taken place at Herrin Hospital is undeniable both in size and sophistication. Not only is the hospital vital to the economic well being of our city as it's largest employer, but more importantly as a provider of outstanding healthcare to not only the residents of Herrin but also to the surrounding communities.

I enthusiastically endorse Herrin Hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to go forward for with this much needed expansion project for continued growth both in size and in healthcare advancements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vickie King". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Vickie King
412 Mine B Road
Herrin, IL 62948

03/16/15

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

Kevin Oestmann M.D.
405 Rushing Drive
Herrin, IL 62948

Re: Project #15-007, Herrin Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

I would like to submit this letter of support for the proposed modernization and expansion of surgical services at Herrin Hospital. As a long term F.P. practicing in Herrin I whole heartedly support this project. As one of the SIH hospitals dedicated to serving all of southern Illinois, this construction is needed to meet the demands of an ever-expanding Medicare and Medicaid patient base so that surgical services can be provided close to home and reduce the outflow of services to surrounding states. It 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. At present, the existing operating rooms are sized extremely small 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. 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.

Thank you for your consideration of this most worthwhile project.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Oestmann', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Oestmann M.D.
CMO Quality Health Partners of Southern Illinois
405 rushing Drive
Herrin, IL 62948