

SIH MEDICAL GROUP

General Surgery

March 30, 2015



220 S Park Avenue
Herrin, IL 62948
T 618.942.2002

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson (2nd Floor)

Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Project #15-007

RECEIVED

APR 01 2015

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Dear Ms. Avery,

I respectfully submit this letter of support in Herrin Hospital's quest to modernize and expand surgical services. Surgical care at Herrin Hospital has evolved to a level of sophistication where nearly 90% of cases are performed laparoscopically. This demand for minimally invasive procedures at Herrin Hospital has increased exponentially in recent years, and, in order for this area of specialty to continue to move forward, we simply must have larger surgical, storage and recovery space. Many of my patients come from a region northeast, south and west of Herrin Hospital. They do not enjoy lengthy travel, and appreciate the level of expertise they can find so close to their homes. As Herrin Hospital continues to expand and offer services to decrease outmigration to nearby states such as Indiana, Missouri and Kentucky, the hospital must continue to evolve to accommodate the needs of the regional community it serves.

I wholeheartedly support this project without reservation. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rodney Miller, MD

220 S. Park Avenue

Herrin, IL 62948

March 30, 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,

Please accept my letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. As an employee of Herrin Hospital, I can attest to the facility's commitment to my community not only as a healthcare worker, but also as a consumer. I have had the honor of serving as the Chief Nurse Executive for Herrin Hospital for over one year and understand the significance of the project with respect to impact upon the community.

For example, the seven-county primary service area, which consists of approximately 240,000 residents, has high elderly and poor populations. At 20.8%, the poverty rate in southern Illinois is disproportionately higher than the Illinois average of 14.6%. A large portion of the care for this uninsured and vulnerable population is provided by Herrin Hospital. As our city's largest employer, the hospital today 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 consistently, advanced health care in southern Illinois.

Sincerely,



Carol Emery, MSN, RN
309 E. Gateway Road
Marion, IL 62959



March 19, 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 letter in support of Herrin Hospital's proposed project. From my somewhat unique vantage point - my organization operates three skilled nursing facilities in their market area - I can attest to Herrin Hospital's relevance and importance to our community. The project is necessary and vital to the region's well-being.

Herrin Hospital displays a strong commitment to regional healthcare. We experience this every day as our SNFs work hand in hand with the hospital to ensure excellent medical care for the patients we share. Their commitment to excellence in the hospital, extending to our partnerships with their medical staff in our own facilities, is integral to this care. It is our fervent hope that Herrin will be able to maintain and extend those capabilities for the benefit of the region's citizens.

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

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Miller, on behalf of:

Helia Healthcare of Energy, 210 E College St, Energy, IL 62933
Frankfort Healthcare & Rehab, 2500 E St Louis St, West Frankfort IL 62896
Helia Healthcare of Benton, 1310 Mark Franklin Rd, Benton IL 62812

COMMUNITY
OF
Faith
CHURCH

**Growing Faithful
Followers of Christ!**

May 27, 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

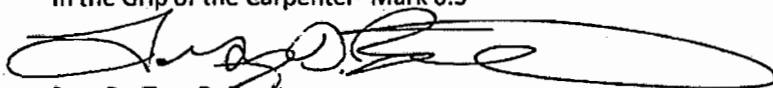
Dear Ms. Avery,

On behalf of the Community of Faith Church Family, where I serve as the Directing Pastor, I am submitting this formal letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. My family goes back 4-generation, as residents of the city of Herrin, and I can tell you the numerous times Herrin Hospital has impacted my life, my families lives and those to whom I serve. My church has over 130 households directly affected by the quality and strength of care given them by Herrin Hospital. They have not only been strong as a healthcare provider, but as a community leader and source of economic strength and development.

Our church is growing, because the Herrin Community is a desirable place to live and work. When many communities across Illinois are struggling, Herrin has stayed vital and impactful. Despite the major changes of employment with large manufactures like Maytag or the Coal Mines, the strength and viability of the medical services have made Herrin a very attractive place for families, business and companies to settle. The Herrin Hospital is providing second to none medical services, keeping families and business within Southern Illinois, instead of having to St. Louis and Springfield, some 2-3 hours away for medical services. This is keeping our community vital and strong. 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 the former Maytag employees. Today, the hospital provides jobs to over 900 residents from across the region. I am also especially grateful for 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, Herrin Hospital has to help make "our community" very special in the region; and I know from the dramatic increase in surgical cases over the last few years that this modernization and expansion is needed to maintain this commitment for the next 100 years.

I give my complete support and endorsement to the hospital's pursuit of the Certificate of Need to usher in another era of consistent, advanced health care in southern Illinois.

In the Grip of the Carpenter- Mark 6:3



Rev. Dr. Troy D. Benitone
Directing Pastor

Rev. Dr. Troy D. Benitone, Directing Pastor

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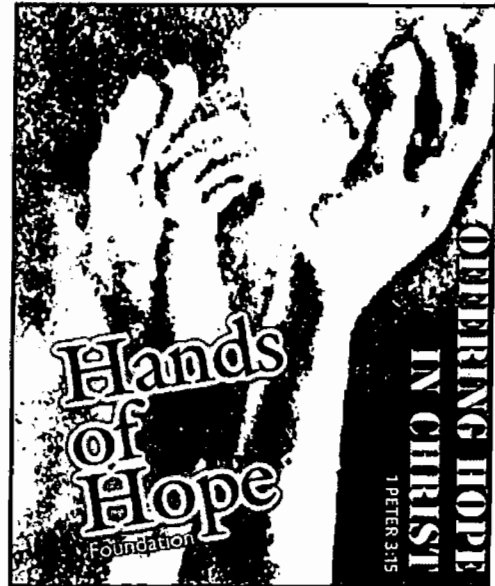
May 27, 2015

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,

On behalf of the Hands of Hope Foundation, a Herrin-Marion based Foundation ministering to families locally, regionally and internationally, I am submitting this formal letter of support to enthusiastically endorse Herrin Hospital's proposed modernization and expansion project. My family goes back 4-generation, as residents of the city of Herrin, and I can tell you the numerous times Herrin Hospital has impacted my life, my families lives and those to whom I serve. They have an incredible connection and relationship to the local community, not only as a healthcare provider, but as a community leader and champion.



When many communities across Illinois are struggling, Herrin has stayed vital and impactful. Despite the major changes of employment with large manufactures like Maytag or the Coal Mines, the strength and viability of the medical services have made Herrin a very attractive place for families, business and companies to settle. The Herrin Hospital is providing second to none medical services, keeping families and business within Southern Illinois, instead of having to St. Louis and Springfield, some 2-3 hours away for medical services. This is keeping our community vital and strong. 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 the former Maytag employees. Today, the hospital provides jobs to over 900 residents from across the region. I am also especially grateful for 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, Herrin Hospital has to help make "our community" very special in the region; and I know from the dramatic increase in surgical cases over the last few years that this modernization and expansion is needed to maintain this commitment for the next 100 years.

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In the Grip of the Carpenter- Mark 6:3

Rev. Dr. Troy D. Benitone, Executive Director

Hands of Hope Foundation

Rev. Dr. Troy D. Benitone, Executive Director

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