

Debra Savage  
Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board  
525 W Jefferson, Second Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Pepper Road Endoscopy Center (Proj. No. 22-024)

Dear Chair Savage:

I have been a resident of Barrington for 43 years. I might not have been able to say that, if it was not for the services of Gastroenterology & Internal Medicine Specialists (GAIMS). In 2003, I had some slight bleeding of the rectum. I might have postponed having it checked if it were not for a local facility and a neighbor physician, Dr. Dale Coy. I thought it was just hemorrhoids, but Dr. Coy performed a colonoscopy and removed a cancerous polyp. I then had colon surgery at Good Shepherd Hospital. I am proud to call myself a "Cancer Survivor" for the past 19 years and continue to visit GAIMS every 3 years for an annual checkup. In the past I would have my colonoscopy at Good Shepherd hospital, but now find it quicker and more convenient to have them at GAIMS.

To think over 50,000 Americans will die this year from colon cancer is incomprehensible knowing that regular colonoscopies could prevent most of these deaths. We are so fortunate to have a local center with skilled doctors who make up the fabric of our community.

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There is a saying I learned in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, "Procrastination is the thief of time." As it relates to cancer, procrastination can cause death. I am indebted to GAIMS for early detection, a course of treatment and the past 19 years to be alive cancer free.

I hope you will approve this Center which has serve our community so well for so many years.

Sincerely,



Bob Lee  
Cancer Survivor 2003