

Morgan Hospital & Medical Center

February 27, 2009

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

I am writing to request your help in securing a federal appropriation of \$494,000 for Morgan Hospital and Medical Center (MHMC) in Martinsville, Indiana. This funding, which will be matched by \$100,000 pledged by the women of the MHMC Guild, will help us to secure advanced technology for the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer and osteoporosis. A portion of the funding will also be used for renovations to help facilitate patient access to these diagnostic services. This request has strong community support.

MHMC is Morgan County's only public hospital and provides the bulk of "safety net" care for under-insured and uninsured persons living in the surrounding area. We strive to maintain high quality health services for all of our patients, regardless of their ability to pay, and federal support will allow us to greatly enhance our health care services. I also note that MHMC employees 600 people, is Morgan County's second largest employer, and our facility helps to drive the local economy.

With your help, we are hoping to secure state-of-the-art digital imaging technology, as well as digital mammography, digital bone density and breast Magnetic Resonance Imaging equipment that will dramatically expand our Women's Life Services and also strengthen several other service areas of the hospital. This advanced technology will provide a 100% increase in MHMC's capacity to meet the health care needs of women at risk of breast cancer. It will also allow us to improve the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis and help more women and men maintain healthy bones.

Morgan County is currently experiencing higher levels of unemployment than other parts of Indiana. Given the critical role of the hospital in serving elderly, low-income, and unemployed individuals and their families, and the challenges many of our fellow Hoosiers face in accessing high quality care, I hope you will make our request for federal assistance a high priority. We are also seeking assistance from Congressman Buyer and Senator Bayh.

We have completed a fiscal year 2010 appropriations request form for your review and consideration, and are providing additional background on Morgan Hospital & Medical Center and the details of our request, as well as letters of support. Please feel free to contact me, or Jeff Viohl, our consultant, if you have any questions or need information.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to improve the lives of the people of Indiana and for your leadership in the U.S. Senate.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Laux
President and Chief Executive Officer
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