JASON SMITH
8TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

1011 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4404
jasonsmith.house.gov

CAPE GIRARDEAU OFFICE
2502 TANNER DRIVE, SUITE 205
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO 63703
(573) 335-0101

SIGN UP FOR MY NEWSLETTER AT:
jasonsmith.house.gov/newsletter

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2508

FARMINGTON OFFICE
22 E. COLUMBIA STREET
PO BOX 1165
FARMINGTON, MO 63640
(573) 756-9755

POPLAR BLUFF OFFICE
2725 N. WESTWOOD BLVD., SUITE 5A
PO BOX 4707
POPLAR BLUFF, MO 63901
(573) 609-2998

ROLLA OFFICE
830A S. BISHOP AVE.
ROLLA, MO 65401
(573) 364-0456

WEST PLAINS OFFICE
35 COURT SQUARE, SUITE 300
WEST PLAINS, MO 65775
(417) 255-1515

June 24, 2024

RE: Mercy St. Francis Hospital MRI Project

Dear Mr. Roger Strosnider,

I am writing to express my strong support of the efforts which aim to provide Mercy St. Francis Hospital with a state-of-the-art MRI machine. This critical infrastructure upgrade is essential for serving the healthcare needs of our rural communities in Missouri, particularly those in the vicinity of Mountain View.

Mercy St. Francis Hospital, a steadfast healthcare provider since 1956, serves approximately 20,000 Missourians residing in Howell, Shannon, Texas, Oregon, and surrounding counties. Despite the dedicated efforts, accessing essential diagnostic services remains challenging for many due to limited availability of advanced medical equipment locally.

Currently, Mercy St. Francis Hospital relies on a mobile MRI unit available only one day per week. For the remaining six days, patients must travel considerable distances, sometimes up to 100 miles, to obtain vital MRI scans. This issue is exacerbated by high poverty levels in this area, where reliable transportation is often a barrier to accessing healthcare.

An investment in a permanent MRI suite at Mercy St. Francis Hospital would not only enhance diagnostic capabilities but also significantly improve healthcare access and outcomes for our community. Early detection facilitated by MRI scans is crucial for timely treatment of conditions such as strokes and brain tumors, potentially saving countless lives.

I fully support this project, which will have a profound impact on the well-being of our Eighth District residents and the sustainability of healthcare services in rural Missouri. I am grateful to those within Mercy St. Francis that are dedicated in working to advance healthcare accessibility and quality in our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Smith
Member of Congress