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Dear MA Department of Public Health:

**Christian T. Andersen, MD**  
*Shoulder Arthroscopy  
Sports Medicine*

**Daniel Bienkowski, MD**  
*Sports Medicine  
General Orthopedics*

**Sohail N. Husain, MD**  
*Hand & Upper Extremity  
Surgery*

**Erika McPhee, MD**  
*Hand & Upper Extremity  
Surgery*

**Abraham T. Shurland, MD**  
*Sports Medicine  
Joint Replacement*

**Marie Walcott, MD**  
*Shoulder & Elbow  
General Orthopedics*

**Evan Zahner, MD**  
*Sports Medicine  
Joint Replacement*

**Craig Lehmann, PA-C**  
*Physician Assistant*

**Krista Reis, PA-C**  
*Physician Assistant*

**Thomas Walsh, PA-C**  
*Physician Assistant*

**Randy Widtfeldt, PA-C**  
*Physician Assistant*

I am an orthopedic surgeon specializing in hand surgery. I have been in private practice in the suburbs north of Boston for the last 10 years. I have had the opportunity to work at 4 different hospitals in the area and at one free free-standing surgery center in New Hampshire. The vast majority of surgeries that I perform do not require the facilities of a large hospital. When I do small cases such as carpal tunnel release, trigger finger surgery, or surgeries for broken bones in the hand or wrist I am occupying operating room space that could be used to serve sicker individuals who require surgery that needs to be done in a hospital setting.

Surgeries done at a surgery center can be done quicker, and without exposing my patients to the hospital environment where the sickest people need to go. I have not had the opportunity to work at a free-standing surgery Center for the last 5 years. However, based on my previous experience I know that a free-standing surgery center like the one proposed to be built here offers a safer and more cost-efficient location to provide surgical care for patients who need the most common type of services that I provide. I think a surgery center like this one allows us to provide better care at a fraction of the cost of procedures performed in a hospital.

I think that this facility will be a great benefit to the community of Medford, especially now that the old hospital operating rooms at the Lawrence Memorial are no longer functional. It will allow patients to get the care they need without traveling far. It will also help to revitalize the existing Lawrence Memorial Hospital campus. I frequently see patients from Medford, Malden and other surrounding towns who would like there surgery done in the immediate area.

I ask for your support and approval of this important project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sohail Husain, MD