



March 12, 2009

**Monroe Clinic  
and Hospital**  
515 22nd Avenue  
Monroe, WI 53566  
608-324-2000

**Albany**  
700 Carolan Dr.  
Albany, WI 53502  
608-862-1616

**Blanchardville**  
309 S. Main St.  
Blanchardville, WI 53516  
608-523-4261

**Brodhead**  
1904 First Center Ave.  
Brodhead, WI 53520  
608-897-2191

**Durand**  
400 S. Center St.  
Durand, IL 61024  
815-248-3443

**Freeport**  
1301 S. Kiwanis Dr.  
Freeport, IL 61032  
815-235-1406

**Freeport Eye Care**  
1110 S. Park Blvd.  
Freeport, IL 61032  
815-232-1105

**Highland Women's Care**  
3103 W. Kunkle Blvd.  
Freeport, IL 61032  
815-233-0999

**Lena**  
214 Schuyler  
Lena, IL 61048  
815-369-4541

**Monroe Clinic - FastCare**  
405 W. 8th St.  
Monroe, WI 53566  
608-324-1940

**New Glarus**  
1800 Second St.  
New Glarus, WI 53574  
608-527-5296

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2446 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-4902

Dear Congresswoman Baldwin:

On behalf of Monroe Clinic in Monroe, Wisconsin, I am writing to you concerning an important issue to both our hospital and our community. We would like to thank you for the support you have given to our Rural Health Technology Initiative in the past. We are very grateful for all that you do for us and the state of Wisconsin.

However, the healthcare needs in our community continue to grow. We continue to make various improvements to our facilities and are respectfully requesting your active support for congressional funding to invest in new state-of-the-art Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) equipment.

Providing medical care in the community since 1939, Monroe Clinic is a not-for-profit health system sponsored by the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes. Monroe Clinic is a Top 100 Integrated Health System offering comprehensive health care, a 100-bed hospital in Monroe, a 24-hour emergency room, and home care and hospice services. 2007 Community Benefits including charity care, community services, and uncompensated care exceeded \$11 million.

We are bringing the best in integrated health care, including cutting edge technological advances, to rural communities and small towns throughout south central Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Through our clinic locations in Monroe, New Glarus, Brodhead, Albany, and Blanchardville, Wisconsin and Durand, Freeport, and Lena Illinois, we provide care through more than 230,000 patient visits annually.

In 2005, with a goal of planning for the future, Monroe Clinic conducted a community health needs assessment. Through the results of this Monroe Clinic is in the design phase of an \$85 million replacement hospital project in Monroe, scheduled for completion in 2011.

The replacement hospital project will support Monroe Clinic's commitment to providing greater access to high quality healthcare while improving Monroe Clinic's ability to compete for and retain skilled physicians and nurses, and increasing patient satisfaction. Monroe Clinic is ensuring that our rural communities will continue to receive the quality healthcare services they so richly deserve.

The replacement hospital provides the opportunity to purchase its first MRI equipment and place the equipment within the hospital facility. Currently, Monroe Clinic rents MRI equipment from an outside vendor. The mobile equipment is located on a flatbed on the loading dock. It is a considerable distance for patients to travel from the medical imaging department.

Detailed MR images allow physicians to better evaluate parts of the body and certain diseases that may not be assessed adequately with other imaging methods such as x-ray, ultrasound, or computed tomography.

A new MRI suite located within the replacement hospital will bring additional benefits of allowing pediatric patients, patients requiring sedation, and patients requiring breast exams to have their imaging conducted at Monroe Clinic. Currently pediatric patients, patients requiring sedation because of claustrophobia, and patients needing MRI for a breast exam are required to travel to other facilities in our region.

We are respectfully requesting your help in securing \$2 million in assistance from Congress for an investment in Magnetic Resonance Imaging Equipment.

Please accept this letter not only as a request for support but also as an invitation to visit our facilities for a personal briefing on this project. We would be happy to explain in detail how the plan will benefit patients. We look forward to working with you and your staff on this initiative. Thank you for your continued support of Monroe Clinic and the patients we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Sanders  
President & CEO