

April 21, 2022

The Honorable Chris Smith  
United States House of Representatives  
2373 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

We write today to express our support for CentraState Medical Center's Congressionally Directed Funding (CDF) request to purchase equipment needed to provide stereotactic radiosurgery to cancer patients in central New Jersey.

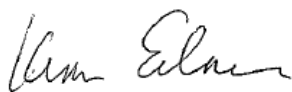
This funding request will be used to purchase hardware and software that will enable CentraState Medical Center's existing Elekta Linear Accelerator to deliver state of the art Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS). SRS is a non-surgical form of radiation therapy used to treat functional abnormalities and small tumors of the brain. It allows for the delivery of high dose radiation to a very small, focused area. SRS is a very precise form of therapeutic radiation that is used to treat abnormalities in the brain and spine, including cancer, epilepsy, trigeminal neuralgia, and arteriovenous malformations. The surgical precision of SRS is particularly useful in treating small or difficult to reach abnormalities in the brain and spine. The targeted focus of the radiation in radiosurgery techniques results in less damage to healthy surrounding tissues and less risk of infection, making it safer for those who have just had surgery.

SRS is a minimally invasive approach that enables the precise treatment of selected pathologies on an outpatient basis. It was pioneered over 50 years ago as a less invasive and safer alternative to standard brain surgery, which requires incisions in the skin, skull, and membranes surrounding the brain and brain tissue. While it is primarily used to treat neurological conditions, researchers are currently exploring the use of SRS to treat other conditions, including melanoma of the eye, breast cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, epilepsy, and even psychological conditions such as obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD).

CentraState is prepared to engage in a major collaboration with Atlantic Health's Neurology physicians and to integrate Oncology into the Neuro service line. The lack of SRS is a significant service gap in our region, resulting in patients that need these services being sent elsewhere. Despite the excellence of CentraState's Radiation Oncology Department, the department is in deficit of SRS capabilities. This deficit not only results in annual out-migration of patients in need of SRS but may also result in a significant loss of overall patient volume in New Jersey's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. In other words, this project will not only open the door to exciting medical treatments and research opportunities, but the funding will also bolster the local economy by allowing patients to receive this critical treatment closer to home.

We are confident that, with the support of this federal funding, CentraState will be able to serve more cancer patients, more effectively, than most other providers in the region. Thank you for your consideration of this important request; if you have any questions about why our region would benefit from this critical program – or why federal funding is an essential part of this initiative – please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



Assemblywoman Kim Eulner  
New Jersey's 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Assemblywoman Marilyn Piperno  
New Jersey's 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

VIN GOPAL  
Senator, 11<sup>th</sup> District  
Majority Conference Leader

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vin Gopal".

Vin Gopal  
Senator, 11th District

April 21, 2022

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Jae Lee, I am a board certified radiation oncologist with Princeton Radiation Oncology / Astera Cancer Care and I treat cancer patients at the Cancer Center at CentraState Healthcare System in Freehold, New Jersey.

As a community based cancer center, one of our primary aims is to provide world class cancer care in a more convenient and accessible environment for our patients. To that end, a very important technology we would be thrilled to offer our patients is stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS). This technology allows for the precise delivery of high dose radiation to cancer within the brain often delivered within a single treatment. Due to the high precision of SRS, the effective sparing of critical brain function such as cognition is superior compared to more broad-based non-stereotactic brain radiation treatments.

SRS is effective, safe, and is increasing in usage. When SRS is appropriate but unavailable, patients often incur significant costs and time traveling to large high-cost tertiary hospital systems. All of our board certified radiation oncologists at CentraState are trained to provide this therapy if it were available. By providing SRS capability at CentraState, patients here will have access to the highest quality cancer care available without having to leave their neighborhood.

We are grateful for your time and attention to this matter and with your help; we hope to be able to offer our patients access to SRS.

Sincerely yours,

Jae Lee, M.D., Ph.D.  
Radiation Oncologist  
Princeton Radiation Oncology / Astera Cancer Care  
CentraState Healthcare System