



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

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June 8, 2022

Ms. Micheala Mitchell
Chief, Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
Division of Health Service Regulation
2704 Mail Center Service
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

Re: Support for Alternately owned Hospital in Buncombe County

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

Please accept this letter demonstrating the full support of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners for an alternately owned hospital for new acute care hospital choices in Buncombe County.

The basic principles of the state health planning process are intended to promote competition in healthcare by ensuring quality, access, and value. The 2022 State Medical Facilities Plan has identified a need for 67 acute care beds in the Buncombe-Madison-Yancey-Graham service area, which presents a rare opportunity to introduce a new hospital provider and stimulate competition.

Since 1995, Mission has operated as the sole hospital provider in Buncombe County. After the not-for-profit health care system was sold to for-profit HCA in 2019, residents have been increasingly vocal of their desire for improved access and patient choice.

A new hospital in the Asheville area would mean more choices for patients to receive high-quality health care close to home and more opportunities for dedicated medical professionals to build their careers in our community.

For these reasons, at its June 7th meeting, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to urge the Division of Health Service Regulation to approve a nonprofit acute health care choice in the Asheville area such as AdventHealth or Novant Health. This will offer patients and physicians choice for the first time in Buncombe County and will provide a much-needed service for the growth population in the Buncombe-Graham-Madison-Yancey County service area.

Sincerely,

Brownie Newman, Chair

