



# Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

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April 10, 2024

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

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

I am writing to express my full support for AdventHealth Asheville's Certificate of Need (CON) application to develop 26 additional acute care beds at the approved new hospital in Buncombe County. The Board of Commissioners are dedicated to ensuring that our citizens have access to the best of care. As the Chairman of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners, I am deeply committed to ensuring that our residents have access to high quality healthcare services. I firmly believe that approving this application will significantly advance our shared goal.

Since 1995, Mission has operated as the sole hospital provider in Buncombe County. However, since HCA acquired Mission in 2019, there has been a growing outcry from residents for improved access and a wider range of choices in healthcare. AdventHealth Asheville represents a crucial step forward, offering a much-needed alternative for our community.

The Buncombe County Board of Commissioners wholeheartedly supported AdventHealth's previous CON application in 2022 to establish a new acute care hospital in Buncombe County. With over a century of service in Western North Carolina, AdventHealth brings unparalleled expertise and a deep understanding of our region's healthcare needs. Moreover, their commitment to community investment and charity care underscores their dedication to the well-being of our residents. The Division of Health Service Regulation rightly determined AdventHealth to be the most effective alternative to end Mission's hospital monopoly in Buncombe County.

AdventHealth's proposal to develop 26 additional acute care beds at AdventHealth Asheville's approved hospital facility is a testament to their ongoing commitment to improving healthcare accessibility. This initiative not only fosters competition but also alleviates pressure on existing healthcare infrastructure, ensuring that every patient receives the quality care they deserve.

The prospect of expanding AdventHealth Asheville's acute care bed capacity is particularly promising for the residents of Buncombe County and surrounding areas. This project aligns with our shared goal of fostering a healthcare system that is responsive, patient-centered, and community-focused. I am confident that it will greatly enhance the overall healthcare landscape in Western North Carolina and contribute to the betterment of our residents' lives.

For these reasons, I urge the Division of Health Service Regulation to approve AdventHealth's CON application. It will enhance competition and expand access to much-needed services for the growing population in the Buncombe-Buncombe-Madison-Yancey County service area.

Sincerely,

Brownie Newman  
Chairman, Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

