



March 21, 2011

Elizabeth Brown, Section Chief
North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation
Medical Facilities Planning Section
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

Re: Petition to State Health Coordinating Council regarding Policy AC-3

Dear Ms. Brown:

As President of Durham Regional Hospital, I am writing to express support for the petition to the SHCC by Duke University Hospital, UNC Hospitals Chapel Hill, Pitt County Memorial Hospital, and North Carolina Baptist Hospital regarding Policy AC-3.

Although it is not itself an academic medical center teaching hospital, and is not eligible to use Policy AC-3, Durham Regional Hospital supports the policy embodied in Policy AC-3 which allows academic medical center teaching hospitals to pursue their research and teaching missions. Patients are regularly referred from our hospital to Duke University Hospital or other academic medical center teaching hospitals to receive treatment that is only offered at those hospitals. We also employ the health care professionals trained by the state's academic medical centers and rely on the academic medical centers to train the doctors and other health care providers we will need in the future to meet our patients' needs. We are also able to take advantage of the advances in diagnostic and treatment techniques and protocols developed at academic medical center teaching hospitals, and benefit from their research activities.

In our view, it would be detrimental to health service in North Carolina to eliminate or weaken Policy AC-3. Therefore, we support the Petition filed by Duke, UNC, Pitt and Baptist regarding Policy AC-3, and support the continued inclusion of Policy AC-3 in the State Medical Facilities Plan.

Sincerely,

Kerry R. Watson
President, Durham Regional Hospital

