

To whom it may concern,

Enclosed is the form letter that Graham county government is coercing employees to send to you.

I personally do not feel there is a need for this type of facility in this county. Local officials state that 18 individuals currently travel out of the county for dialysis. While it is certainly unfortunate for those individuals, the numbers do not warrant the funds necessary for such a facility, not to mention the issues with hiring and maintaining proper staff which is extremely difficult and expensive in this remote area.

While it is logical to think that due to an aging population those numbers may increase in the future, it is worth noting that several agencies have undertaken the task of reducing diabetes countywide through education and counseling. You know, an ounce of prevention....

I have now sent you my letter as directed. Thank you and have a good day!

GENERAL SUPPORT

July 29, 2016

T. J. Pulliam, MD, Chair
Long Term Care Committee
c/o Ms. Paige Bennet, Assistant Chief
Healthcare Planning
Division of Health Service Regulation
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2704

RE: Letter in support of an adjusted need determination to be included in the *2017 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP)* for a new dialysis facility in Graham County, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Frisone,

I am writing this letter to express support for the adjusted need determination proposed to be included in the *2017 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP)* for a new dialysis facility in Graham County.

An End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) dialysis facility in Graham County will greatly improve the quality of life for residents suffering from ESRD. The residents of Graham County, North Carolina, and those on extended visits who need dialysis services to stay alive, must travel substantial times and distances to surrounding facilities in Sylva, Murphy, Cherokee, or Waynesville, North Carolina. For example, a resident of Robbinsville, Graham County must travel 74 miles, roundtrip, to the dialysis facility in Cherokee, North Carolina or 68 miles, roundtrip, to the facility in Murphy, North Carolina. These are the two closest facilities.

The long drives are not easy. Distances which appear on maps to be but a few miles involve circuitous routes along roads filled with sharp curves and steep grades. The roads through Graham County run through rugged mountainous country and are extremely dangerous when wet or when snow, ice, and / or foggy conditions are present.

These types of hardships have material and negative impacts on quality of life for both Graham residents who need dialysis services and those who assist them in traveling to the dialysis facilities. This is an excellent proposal for a much needed service. I urge the Division of Health Service Regulation to approve the adjusted need determination.

Sincerely,

Signature

(Print name and address)

Name:

Address:

GENERAL SUPPORT

July 29, 2016

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