



North Carolina General Assembly
House Of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE GARY H. PENDLETON
49TH DISTRICT - WAKE COUNTY

July 22, 2016

Christopher Ulrich, MD
Chair, State Health Coordinating Council
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
Division of Health Service Regulation
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

RE: Letter in support of Triangle Lithotripsy Corporation's petition for a special need determination for one lithotripter in the statewide service area in the 2017 State Medical Facilities Plan

Dear Dr. Ulrich:

I am writing this letter to express support for the petition filed by the Triangle Lithotripsy Corporation for a special need determination for one, statewide lithotripter in the *2017 State Medical Facilities Plan*. I grew up in Eastern North Carolina and spend a lot of time there. As you know, Eastern North Carolina is suffering from lack of medical care.

Triangle-Lithotripsy Corporation ("TLC") has been providing lithotripsy services in North Carolina for over 25 years and has a strong reputation for delivering quality services. Through its experience and its recent evaluation of the statewide market, TLC has determined there is deficit of lithotripters in the state.

As anyone who has had a kidney stone knows, it is painful and treatment cannot come soon enough. While many with kidney stones receive alternative treatments such as invasive ureteroscopy, lithotripsy provides a non-invasive, highly effective treatment for kidney stones. Yet, access across the state is not uniform. Certain areas of the state enjoy better access than others. In particular, northeastern North Carolina, as TLC's petition shows, has a deficit of access to lithotripsy. The lack of availability in certain areas is due, in part, to the fact that lithotripsy providers in North Carolina are permitted to provide service to other states. As a result, a significant part of our inventory is being used out-of-state. The need methodology in the current *State Medical Facilities Plan* is not able to account for this loss of inventory. To close the gap in resources in a timely manner, TLC has proposed a viable solution: need for one additional lithotripter in the 2017 Plan.

As a former board member of WakeMed, a US Army Medical Service Corp. officer, and Wake County Commissioner, I urge the Division of Health Service Regulation to approve TLC's petition.

Sincerely,

Gary H. Pendleton
Chairman, Health Committee

GHP/kmp

cc Paige Bennett, Assistant Chief, Healthcare Planning
William Pinna, JD

