

Bernhardt  
Furniture  
Company  
1839 Morganton Blvd  
P. O. Box 740  
Lenoir, North Carolina  
28645 - 0740  
828.758.9811

July 13, 2017

Mrs. Laura J. Easton  
President and CEO  
Caldwell Memorial Hospital  
321 Mulberry St. SW  
Lenoir, NC 28645

RE: Letter of Support for Caldwell Memorial Hospital's Petition for Cardiac Catheterization Equipment

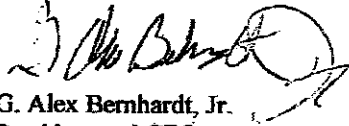
Dear Mrs. Easton:

I support approval of the Caldwell Memorial Hospital petition for a need determination in the *2018 State Medical Facilities Plan* for cardiac catheterization equipment. Caldwell Memorial Hospital currently depends on a contract services provider to obtain the equipment and staffing for cardiac catheterization procedures. The contract services arrangement is not cost effective. Also, the cardiac equipment will need to be upgraded within the next few years.

Caldwell Memorial Hospital deserves the opportunity to improve quality of care with more advanced imaging capabilities. It would be ideal for the cardiac catheterization nursing staff to be directly employed by the hospital so that they can be cross-trained to work multiple nursing units. The proposal is supported by continued growth in cardiac procedures and the recruitment of additional physicians.

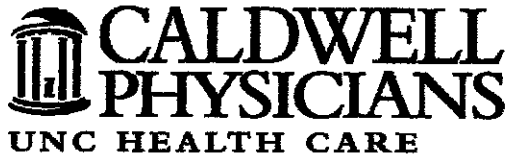
In summary, I strongly support the approval of the Caldwell Memorial Hospital petition request. Please let me know if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,



G. Alex Bernhardt, Jr.  
President and CEO  
Bernhardt Furniture Company  
Lenoir, North Carolina

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**Robbins Cardiology**  
inside Robbins Medical Park  
322 Mulberry St., SW  
Suite F  
Lenoir, NC 28645  
Office: 828.757.6462  
Fax: 828.757.6490

July 12, 2017

Mrs. Laura J. Easton  
President and CEO  
Caldwell Memorial Hospital  
321 Mulberry St. SW  
Lenoir, NC 28645

RE: Caldwell Memorial Hospital's Petition for Cardiac Catheterization Equipment

Dear Mrs. Easton:

Caldwell Memorial Hospital intends to submit a petition for a need determination in the *2018 State Medical Facilities Plan* for one unit of cardiac catheterization equipment. As a board certified cardiologist and the Medical Director of the Cardiac Catheterization service, I strongly support the approval of the petition request.

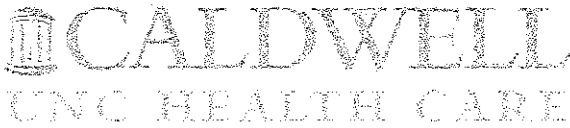
The volume of cardiac catheterization procedures has increased substantially in the past two years and the contract service is no longer cost effective. Caldwell Memorial Hospital should no longer be dependent on a contract service for cardiac catheterization procedures. We have excellent nursing staff and radiological technologists at the hospital who have advanced training and skills and we also have access to tremendous clinical training programs. The cardiac catheterization nursing staff should be directly employed by the hospital and cross-trained to work in the post-procedure cardiac unit as well as the intensive care unit.

Please include this letter of support with the petition request and let me know if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Edmunds", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. John Edmunds  
Chief of Medicine  
Medical Director of Cardiac Catheterization



July 13, 2017

Mrs. Laura J. Easton  
President and CEO  
Caldwell Memorial Hospital  
321 Mulberry St. SW  
Lenoir, NC 28645

RE: Letter of Support for Caldwell Memorial Hospital's Petition for Cardiac Catheterization Equipment

Dear Mrs. Easton:

I am writing to express my support for the Caldwell Memorial Hospital petition for a need determination in the *2018 State Medical Facilities Plan* for cardiac catheterization equipment. As the Chief of the Medical Staff at Caldwell Memorial Hospital, I am pleased to report that the hospital is making great strides in improving the hospital's facilities and equipment.

For many years, Caldwell Memorial Hospital has been dependent on a contract services provider to obtain the equipment and staffing for cardiac catheterization procedures. The existing cardiac equipment at the hospital will need to be upgraded within the next few years. The current contract services arrangement is not cost effective due to the contract staff that is solely dedicated to the procedure room. If a cardiac catheterization procedure is rescheduled or delayed, the contract staff cannot be assigned to other nursing units within the hospital.

The Caldwell Memorial Hospital petition offers the hospital an opportunity to improve quality of care with more advanced imaging capabilities and newer technology that reduces radiation exposure. It will also be most beneficial for the cardiac catheterization nursing staff to be directly employed by the hospital and cross-trained to work in the post-procedure cardiac unit as well as the intensive care unit. Caldwell Memorial Hospital predicts continued growth in cardiac procedures and intends to recruit an additional cardiologist. I also understand that the hospital would utilize its own cardiac catheterization equipment and staff to provide clinical training programs through its agreements with local colleges and universities.

For all of these reasons, I strongly support the approval of the Caldwell Memorial Hospital petition request. Please let me know if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey P. Keverline'.

Jeffrey P. Keverline, MD  
Chief of Staff  
Caldwell Memorial Hospital