

Chad J. Brown, DrPH
President
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist
Wilkes Medical Center
1370 West D Street
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

July 26, 2023

Dr. Sandra Greene
Chair
NC State Health Coordinating Council
809 Ruggles Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603

Re: Support for Petition for an adjustment to the 2024 acute care bed need determination filed by Alleghany Memorial Hospital

Dear Dr. Greene,

I am writing to express my strong support for the petition filed by Alleghany Memorial Hospital (AMH) for an adjustment to the 2024 acute care bed need determination in Alleghany County. AMH is requesting the addition of three (3) acute care beds to the 2024 need determination to increase Alleghany County's acute care bed capacity from three (3) to six (6) beds.

AMH is the sole acute care hospital in Alleghany County. Alleghany County is situated in a rural and mountainous region of Northwest North Carolina with limited healthcare access. In my capacity as the President of Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center (WMC), I lead one of the acute care hospitals nearest to AMH. Our hospital cares for many acute care inpatients from Alleghany County, making us well acquainted with the challenges faced by this community.

I firmly stand behind AMH's petition as it strives to enhance healthcare access and value for residents of Alleghany County while also providing a mechanism to ensure the financial health of AMH and, consequently, its continued operation as a critical access hospital in rural North Carolina.

Approval of this petition will increase access to healthcare services within a patient's home county. Presently, due to limited access, WMC frequently accepts transfers from AMH. Many of these patients could have safely remained in their community if the hospital had sufficient beds to meet their needs.

I believe that supporting AMH's petition aligns perfectly with our shared commitment to delivering quality healthcare services to every citizen in the state. Ensuring access to proper medical facilities in underserved regions like Alleghany County is of paramount importance, and this petition represents a significant step in that direction.

Thank you for considering my stance on this matter. I sincerely hope that you will take this opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of Alleghany County's residents by approving this essential petition.

Sincerely,



Chad J. Brown, DrPH
President
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Wilkes Medical Center