



August 1, 2023

Sandra Greene, PhD Chair  
State Health Coordinating Council  
Andrea Emmanuel, PhD Acting Assistant Chief  
Healthcare Planning Section  
Division of Health Service Regulation

2714 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2714

**RE: Carteret Health Care Petition for Hybrid PET/CT Simulator / Scanner at an Acute Care Hospital in Carteret County, HSA VI, North Carolina**

Dear Dr. Greene and Dr. Emmanuel,

We are writing to express the unanimous support of the Executive Committee of the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce for the petition submitted by Carteret Health Care for an adjusted need determination in the *2024 State Medical Facilities Plan* for one hybrid PET scanner/simulator in HSA VI and designate it for a licensed acute care hospital in Carteret County. We understand that this request will improve access, affordability, and quality of care for cancer patients in Carteret County and surrounding areas.

Carteret County and the Crystal Coast form an attractive location for locals to stay all their lives and for second homeowners and active seniors who choose to move here during their retirement years. The appeal of our coastal amenities adds to the quality of life that older adults seek. Our communities are walkable, and we have dozens of small towns. Because of these demographics, access to top-quality health care is a paramount concern. The prevalence of cancer among older Americans is a consideration that we believe warrants careful evaluation of the statistics that are documented in the hospital's petition.

Hence, we believe it is prudent and timely to allow the county to expand its cancer treatment services with the addition of a hybrid PET scanner/simulator. This efficient technology will improve diagnosis and radiation therapy planning within the Carteret Health Care cancer center. The performance record of Carteret Health Care with regard to superb quality is validated in its petition. The expanded program would be no exception.

We encourage you to endorse and approve the petition from Carteret Health Care. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Kies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Tom Kies, President  
Carteret County Chamber of Commerce