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3RD DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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**Congress of the United States**  
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March 18, 2024

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**RE: Carteret Health Care Petitions for PET/CT Simulator / Scanner Methodology or Policy Change**

Dear Dr. Greene and Dr. Emmanuel,

On behalf of myself and the people I represent in Carteret County, I ask that DHSR Planning Staff, and the State Health Coordinating Council approve one of the alternative PET petitions submitted by Carteret Health Care. Please change the *2025 State Medical Facilities Plan* and permit midsize cancer centers in communities like Carteret County to get a fixed PET scanner.

As Congressman for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District of North Carolina, we rely heavily on the healthcare services provided to the citizens of Carteret County by our local hospital. We hope that you will visit the Crystal Coast during the peak tourist season so that you can appreciate the travel hurdles faced by our cancer patients when they cannot get standard care treatment in our accredited Community Cancer Center. Cancer is increasing all over North Carolina, and we should allow organized growth of technology to treat it. Carteret Health Care has offered two paths – both will prevent excessive development of expensive technology and open a door that an old methodology blocks for Eastern North Carolina.

A midsize cancer center that maintains recognized third-party accreditation should have a path to acquire a PET scanner – particularly an efficient one that can fulfill more than one function in the cancer center. The accreditation provides quality oversight, the dual function provides value and cost-effectiveness.

Please consider these petitions and provide a path for midsize cancer centers like the one at Carteret Health Care to acquire a PET scanner that is available full time and offers a full range of scans. North Carolina should be creative about making care accessible outside the exceptionally large cancer centers. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gregory F. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gregory F. Murphy, MD  
Congressman, 3<sup>rd</sup> District of NC