

August 1, 2008

DFS Health Planning
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Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

To: State Health Coordinating Council, and
Medical Facilities Planning Section
Division of Health Service Regulation
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2714

Re: Letter in support of Petition Regarding: Change Methodology for Radiation
Oncology – Linear Accelerators For the 2009 State Medical Facilities Plan

One in six men will develop prostate cancer in his lifetime. The death rate from prostate cancer is 18.1/100,000 nationally.¹ Treatment for prostate and male urologic cancers involves varied options including: watchful waiting, androgen hormone therapy, surgery, and radiation therapy.

I am a practicing urologist at Physicians Urology, a center for the treatment of prostate cancer in Akron, Ohio. Along with other urologists, radiation oncologists, radiation therapists and other specialized cancer care providers, we focus on the treatment of prostate cancer. Our center sees improved communication and collaboration among the specialists. Our prostate cancer patients are experiencing better outcomes, more complete recoveries, and fewer and less serious side effects with the use of our multidisciplinary process.

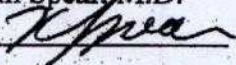
Because our physicians specialize in treating prostate cancer, we have seen an increase in efficiency and quality of care through economies of scale and we have developed expertise that benefits our patients.

A Prostate Health Center, with an organized multidisciplinary program focused on total prostate cancer care, will foster excellent and innovative health care in North Carolina, bolstering the State's reputation for providing quality health care.

I encourage you to fully consider the merits of a prostate cancer center and the focused care it will afford the men in your area. Please contact me at the above address if I can be of any assistance or provide you with additional information.

Thank you,

Kevin Spear, M.D.



¹ Gaston, Kris, MD; Pruthi, Raj, MD. "Racial Differences in Prostate Cancer." North Carolina Medical Journal 67.2 (2006): 130-134.