

DFS HEALTH PLANNING
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MEDICAL FACILITIES
PLANNING SECTION

April 28, 2010

Dr. Thomas J. Pulliam, Chair
Long Term & Behavioral Health Committee
State Coordinating Council
DHSR Medical Facility Planning Section
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

Dear Dr. Pulliam:

As a hematologist/oncologist practicing in Wilson, North Carolina for the last 7 years, I strongly support the local effort to add inpatient hospice beds for an inpatient hospice facility in Wilson, North Carolina.

Unfortunately as a town without an inpatient hospice center, our patients often get substandard care. Patients are often treated with home hospice who would be better served with inpatient hospice, and other patients die on regular medical floors without getting optimal palliative care. Addition of the inpatient hospice facility will allow our patients to die with comfort and dignity in a quality setting.

We have had patients go to nursing homes for this, but we have complaints from patients and their families that the nursing staff, not being focused solely on palliative care, have left some needs unmet.

For these reasons and others, I strongly support the effort to get an adequate number of inpatient hospice beds for Wilson County to best serve our community.

Sincerely,



Keith A. Lerro, M. D., PhD.
Southeastern Medical Oncology Center

KAL:dst