



Association for  
**Home & Hospice Care**  
of North Carolina

September 4, 2010

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

RE: Letter of Support for Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County Special Need Petition for Gordon Hospice House for Six Inpatient Hospice Beds

Dear Dr. Pulliam,

This letter is written in support of Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County, to include the special adjusted need for hospice inpatient beds at the Gordon Hospice House in the *2011 State Medical Facilities Plan*.

The needs for hospice inpatient care are most demanding and challenging. A dedicated hospice and palliative care team, involving doctors, nurses, chaplains, medical social workers, volunteers and aides is the optimal support system for care of the patient and support of the family. General inpatient care provided by this team of professionals when the care may not feasibly be provided in the patient's home, is the "gold standard" for end-of-life care.

On behalf of the Association for Home and Hospice Care, I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this important petition. We believe that issuing a special need determination for these beds is appropriate, given the high growth rate and shortened length of stay of Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County. They have demonstrated the ability to provide residential care in long term care, assisted living as well as a community supported residence, Serenity House. Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County is committed to improving care for patients who need end-of-life services, and the addition of six general inpatient beds will allow them to continue to improve access to care.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**Timothy R. "Tim" Rogers, CEO**  
Association for Home & Hospice Care of North Carolina

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