

Columbus Regional HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

March 17, 2011

Ms. Elizabeth Brown, Section Chief
North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation
Medical Facilities Planning Section
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

DFS Health Planning
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Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

Re: Policy AC-3

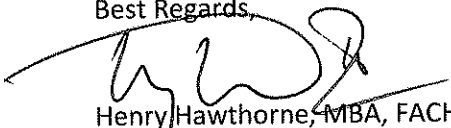
Dear Ms. Brown,

Columbus Regional Healthcare System supports the policy embodied by Policy AC-3 which allows academic medical center teaching hospitals to pursue their research and teaching missions. Our hospital routinely refers patients to academic medical center teaching hospitals to receive treatment that is only offered at those hospitals. We also employ the health care professionals trained by the state's academic medical centers and want to be sure that those centers can continue to educate the workforce we need.

Therefore, we support the Petition filed by Duke, UNC, Pitt and Baptist regarding Policy AC-3, and support the continued inclusion of Policy AC-3 in the Plan.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Best Regards,



Henry Hawthorne, MBA, FACHE
President & CEO