

August 10, 2015

Dr. Christopher Ullrich, Chair, SHCC  
c/o North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation  
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section  
2714 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2714

Dear Dr. Ullrich:

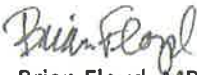
Vidant Medical Center and the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University are in support of the petition filed by LifeCare Hospitals of North Carolina, which would allocate 40 skilled nursing beds in Nash County to provide access to care for patients in the east.

As an acute care hospital and faculty practice plan, we regularly care for and discharge patients to LifeCare when they are in need of long term care that is most appropriately provided in an LTCH setting. Often times, the needs of a patient will prevent a SNF admission. By adding a SNF function to LifeCare and their current LTCH operation, patients with particular conditions may be placed in a more appropriate setting, which in turn would allow care to be provided while reducing unnecessary costs to the health care system.

It is important to understand that skilled nursing facilities play an important role in the patient care continuum; however, it is understandable that most simply cannot care for patients with such particular needs. For that reason we support the LifeCare petition to add 40 SNF beds in Nash County to the State Medical Facilities Plan.

We believe that LifeCare's petition demonstrates a special need for the allocation of these beds in Nash County, and we fully support the approval of its petition.

Respectfully,

  
Brian Floyd, MBA, RN  
President  
Vidant Medical Center

  
Paul R. G. Cunningham, MD, FACS  
Dean & Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs  
ECU Brody School of Medicine