



North Carolina General Assembly House of Representatives

Representative Kenneth L. Goodman
66th District

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August 6, 2018

By email to: DHSR.SMFP.Petitions-Comments@dhhs.nc.gov

Sandra Greene, PhD
Chair, Acute Care Services Committee
State Health Coordinating Council

Amy Craddock, PhD
Assistant Chief, Healthcare Planning
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
NC Division of Health Service Regulation
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina

Re: Petition filed by Pinehurst Surgical Clinic to Add One Operating Room to Richmond County in the 2019 State Medical Facilities Plan

Dear Dr. Greene and Dr. Craddock:

My district includes Hoke, Montgomery, Richmond, Robeson and Scotland Counties. I am also a resident of Richmond County. I strongly support residents of my district having access to high quality, affordable health care. I appreciate the work that the State Health Coordinating Council and the Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section perform every year to ensure that all residents of North Carolina, including those in rural areas, have access to needed healthcare services. Although my district is largely rural, we are very fortunate to have excellent health care provided by several different health care systems, including FirstHealth of the Carolinas, Southeastern Regional Medical Center, Cape Fear Valley Health System, and Scotland Health Care System.

Pinehurst Surgical Clinic (PSC) in Moore County has filed a petition with the SHCC seeking to have a need for one operating room in Richmond County added to the 2019 State Medical Facilities Plan. PSC indicates that it would like to open an ambulatory surgery center in Richmond County. For the following reasons, I do not support the petition filed by PSC.

One of the reasons North Carolina has a comprehensive health planning and certificate of need program is to avoid the unnecessary duplication of health care services. Unnecessary duplication drives up cost, and that cost is ultimately paid by patients. Currently, Richmond County has a surplus of 1.64 ORs, so there is no need to add any additional ORs to Richmond County. There is more than adequate capacity in the three ORs at FirstHealth Richmond Memorial Hospital to handle inpatient and outpatient surgeries in a timely manner. FirstHealth has been an excellent corporate citizen of Richmond County for many years. As a not-for-profit system (which PSC is not), FirstHealth has very generous policies to help patients who cannot afford to pay for their care.

I understand that FirstHealth has affiliations with PSC in Richmond and other counties, but PSC did not include FirstHealth in the petition. I would much rather see PSC work with FirstHealth to address surgical needs in Richmond County, which might include the ORs at Sandhills, rather than have an unnecessary additional OR added to Richmond County.

Thank you for considering these comments, and thank you for the work that you do on behalf of North Carolina's citizens. If you have any questions or need further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Goodman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Representative Ken Goodman