

August 8, 2019

Sent via electronic mail to: DHSR.SMFP.Petitions-Comments@dhhs.nc.gov

Lyndon Jordan, III, M.D., Chairman, Technology and Equipment Committee
North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
State Health Coordinating Council
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

Re: Support for Raleigh Radiology's Petition for One Additional Fixed MRI Scanner in Wake County in the 2020 State Medical Facilities Plan

Dear Dr. Jordan:


On behalf of WakeMed Health & Hospitals, I am writing in support of the petition submitted by Raleigh Radiology for an adjusted need determination for one additional fixed MRI scanner for Wake County in the 2020 State Medical Facilities Plan.

As one of North Carolina's most populous and fastest-growing counties, Wake County continues to need additional advanced imaging services like MRI, to meet the area's current and future needs. With a growth rate of approximately 2 percent per year, Wake County is projected add over 115,000 residents from 2019-2024, greater than the current populations of 74 of the state's 100 counties. Relative to its population, Wake County is underserved for fixed-equivalent MRI capacity.

Raleigh Radiology's petition for an additional fixed MRI scanner in Wake County acknowledges the value that mobile MRI scanners provide to a service area, but makes a compelling case that Wake County is in need of more true fixed MRI capacity. As a provider of both fixed and mobile MRI services, WakeMed understands that both modalities have their place in the health care continuum. However, additional fixed MRI services in Wake County would greatly benefit patients, and provide additional care delivery options.

Please accept this letter as WakeMed's full support for Raleigh Radiology's petition. We urge the Technology and Equipment Committee and the full SHCC to approve this request. If you have questions or require additional information, you are welcome to contact us.

Sincerely,



Denise W. Warren
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

cc: Joanne Watson, Raleigh Radiology