

August 8, 2022

Ms. Sandra Greene, PhD, Chair  
State Health Coordinating Council

Amy Craddock, PhD, Assistant Chief  
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section  
Division of Health Service Regulation

[DHSR.SMFP.Petitions-Comments@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:DHSR.SMFP.Petitions-Comments@dhhs.nc.gov)

**Re: Letter of support for Carolina Vascular Care's petition for need adjustment to the 2023 SMFP**

Dear Dr. Greene and Dr. Craddock,

My name is Louis Roberts. I am writing to support the petition submitted by Carolina Vascular Care PLLC for a special need for a single specialty vascular access dedicated ambulatory surgery center.

My kidneys do not work. So, I depend on dialysis to keep me alive. My life involves three half days a week at a dialysis center to get my blood cleaned. It also involves regular maintenance of the surgical shunt in my arm through which I get dialysis. This is the place on my body where the nurses connect me to the dialysis machine and has essentially become my lifeline. Due to the wear and tear the shunt endures, it needs frequent maintenance procedures, about 3-4 times a year, to keep it functional. Sometimes, it stops working and I need it fixed immediately.

Unfortunately, we do not have a local vascular access center in Wilson County and I have to travel a long way to Raleigh every time I need such a procedure. This is not always practical due to my ongoing health issues and need to arrange transportation. I frequently have to wait 2-3 days to get scheduled there which leads to missed dialysis treatments. This builds up toxins and water in my body putting my life at risk. I have seen other patients go through the same ordeal when they need their access repaired. The center in Raleigh is far and quite busy to take care of patients from our area. I wholeheartedly agree and support having a local vascular access surgery center in the Rocky Mount area. Please address the need for such a critical service in the state medical facilities plan. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

*Louis E. Roberts*

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