



# AI PATENT LAW

July 26, 2023

PADOWITZ ALCE, ESQ.

Valerie Jarvis, Chair, Long-Term and Behavioral Health Committee  
J. Cooper Linton, Vice Chair, Long-Term and Behavioral Health Committee  
State Health Coordinating Council  
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section  
Division of Health Service Regulation  
2704 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

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CHARLOTTE, NC 28226

Dear Ms. Jarvis and Mr. Linton,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my wholehearted endorsement of the petition filed by Heart’N Soul Hospice. Their request is to include an adjusted need determination in the 2024 State Medical Facilities Plan for an additional hospice home care agency in Mecklenburg County, specifically designed to serve historically underserved racial and ethnic minority populations.

As someone deeply involved in the Mecklenburg County community, I can personally attest to the pressing need for culturally competent hospice home care services in our area. It is essential to acknowledge the significant role culturally competent healthcare providers play in addressing health disparities and enhancing the quality of life for patients and their families, especially during such sensitive times for those with terminal illnesses. Prioritizing the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities is of utmost importance in delivering effective health and human services to all members of Mecklenburg County. The Heart’N Soul petition aims to improve access to hospice services for underserved individuals in our community by focusing on serving minority populations.

While the current hospice agencies in Mecklenburg County serve many patients, there remains a considerable number of minority residents, particularly those over the age of 65, who are more likely to require end-of-life care. These individuals have endured decades of inequality, leading to a lack of trust in medical institutions and making it challenging for them to accept care in their homes. This unique reluctance, combined with limited education about hospice services and a lack of representation among healthcare providers, has resulted in an unmet need for hospice care among a large number of minority residents in Mecklenburg County. Heart’N Soul's petition seeks to address this issue by creating an adjusted need determination to provide hospice care for historically marginalized individuals in the comfort of their own homes. By establishing a team of dedicated caregivers who share lived experiences through racial, ethnic, and religious cultural identities, terminally ill patients and their loved ones can access a more comfortable, convenient, and affirming approach to end-of-life care.

The presence of a hospice home care agency focused on providing culturally competent services would greatly benefit the residents of Mecklenburg County. Currently, such an agency does not exist. Culturally competent hospice home care providers, like Heart’N Soul, can play a pivotal role in reducing disparities in access to and utilization of hospice services among minorities. Moreover, they can create safe spaces



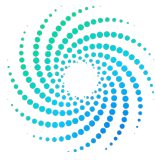
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for terminally ill patients and their loved ones to find solace and support from a diverse and compassionate care team that understands the nuanced differences between racial, ethnic, and religious minorities concerning dying with dignity and comfort. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support Heart'N Soul Hospice's petition.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will give this matter the attention it deserves, as it profoundly impacts the well-being of our community members.

Sincerely,

Signature: *Paul Alce*

Name: Padowithz Alce, Esq.



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