



Wilson Cardiology Associates, P.A.

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Mr. Gene DePorter
Assistant Section Chief of Planning
Medical Facilities Planning Section
NC Division of Health Service Regulations
274 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

DFS Health Planning
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Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

Dear Mr. DePorter:

As a practicing cardiologist in Wilson County, I am writing this letter in strong support of the proposed free standing 12 bed hospice facility.

Wilson County has a high incidence of cardiovascular disease which includes a significant number of end stage cardiac issues requiring hospice care. This coupled with our aging population, necessitates the need for growing hospice care in a local and convenient setting in our county. Too often, my elderly patients who may not have local relatives to assist in home care struggle to maintain there day to day care in a home setting. Although a skilled facility or nursing home placement could be an option, it likely will not provide the expertise of a fully staffed and trained hospice facility.

As you have already been made aware, an outmigration of 220 hospice patients were transferred out of Wilson County for hospice services in 2008 and I anticipate this number to grow. For this reason as well as other reasons noted from The Hospice of Wilson, I am in full support of this petition request.

Respectfully,

Paul Perez-Navarro, MD, FACC
President
Wilson Cardiology Associates