



August 11, 2010

DFS HEALTH PLANNING
RECEIVED

AUG 18 2010

The Hon. William L Wainwright
Chairman State Health Coordinating Council

MEDICAL FACILITIES
PLANNING SECTION

Mr. Gene DePorter
Chief, Planning Section
Division of Health Service Regulation
2714 Mail Service Center
701 Barbour Dr.
Raleigh, NC 29699-2714

RE: Letter of Support for Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County Special Need Petition for Gordon Hospice House for Six Inpatient Hospice Beds

Dear Mr. DePorter:

My name is Ed Rush, President and CEO of Iredell Memorial Hospital. I have worked with Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County, our local provider for end-of-life care, since November 2004. I am writing to support the petition submitted by Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County, to include the special adjusted need for hospice inpatient beds at the Gordon Hospice House.

Our organization works collaboratively with the hospice team to facilitate the transfer of acutely ill patients from the critical care setting in the hospital to the Gordon Hospice House. Often times, there is a waiting list and the hospice nurse liaison finds it necessary to triage which patient will be allowed access to the Gordon Hospice House. With six additional inpatient beds, more patients will be allowed to receive the care they so deserve when they need it most.

This unit has provided a great service to our hospital and community for the past five years. The population of Iredell County is growing and so is the need for access to high quality care at end-of-life. I urge you to include a need determination for the six additional general inpatient beds for the Gordon Hospice House.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ed Rush,
President & CEO