



Graham County Board of County Commissioners

*Jacob Nelms
Chairman*

*12 North Main Street
Robbinsville, NC 28771*

*Keith Eller
Vice-Chairman*

*Lynn Cody
Member*

*Phone: 828-479-7961
Fax: 828-479-7988*

*Connie Orr
Member*

*Raymond Williams
Member*

*Robert (Mike) Edwards
County Manager*

*Kim Crisp
Clerk*

August 10, 2016

T. J. Pulliam, MD, Chair
Long Term Care Committee
c/o Ms. Paige Bennet, Assistant Chief
Healthcare Planning
Division of Health Service Regulation
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2704

Dear Dr. Pulliam,

This letter is written to lend support for the dire need for a new dialysis facility in Graham County. There is great hope in our small community that this need will be included in the *2017 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP)*

A dialysis facility in Graham County will greatly improve the quality of life for residents suffering from ESRD presently and the future. Residents of Graham County, North Carolina, who need lifesaving dialysis services, must travel many times and travel great distances to facilities in Sylva, Murphy, Cherokee, or Waynesville, North Carolina. For example, a resident of Robbinsville, Graham County must travel 74 miles, roundtrip, to the dialysis facility in Cherokee, North Carolina or 68 miles, roundtrip, to the facility in Murphy, North Carolina. These are the two closest facilities.

The long drives are not easy. Distances which appear on maps to be but a few miles involve circuitous routes along roads filled with sharp curves and steep grades. The roads through Graham County run through rugged mountainous country and are extremely dangerous when wet or when snow, ice, and / or foggy conditions are present.

These types of hardships have material and negative impacts on quality of life for both Graham County residents who need dialysis services and those who assist them in traveling to the dialysis facilities.

This is an excellent proposal for a much needed service.

I urge the Division of Health Service Regulation to approve the adjusted need determination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Edwards", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Edwards, County Manager
Graham County, North Carolina