

Dear Dr Greene,

I am writing in opposition to the Wilmington Health Application. Further erosion of services from Onslow Memorial Hospital will jeopardize the existence of this critically important city and military acute care facility.

Jacksonville, NC is the 14th largest city in North Carolina, and is home to Camp Lejeune, one of the largest marine bases in the country. Onslow Memorial Hospital serves as the primary health care provider for this city, and the marines and their families, and is the only facility within one hour for after-hours and for any emergency services. The hospital (149 beds) had emergency department 61,500 visits in 2016. This compares to Carolina East Medical Center (350 beds) with 70000 ED visits—1 hour drive from Jacksonville, and New Hanover Memorial Hospital (692 beds) with 88000 ED visits--- 1.5 hour drive from Jacksonville.

These numbers clearly demonstrate the crisis that would occur with closure of this hospital. The hospital is in treacherous financial status, and can remain solvent only by maintaining those services, including outpatient surgery, which supplement the services which are a financial drain on the hospital.

Please consider the health and well-being of the residents of Onslow County and Camp Lejeune over the financial gain of a facility who will serve these citizens only for elective, highly reimbursed, routine daytimes services.

Sincerely,

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