



August 9, 2017

Christopher Ullrich, M.D., Chairman
North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council
Health Planning and Certificate of Need Section
North Carolina Division of Facilities Services
809 Ruggles Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603

Re: Adjusted Need Petition for Additional Inpatient Rehabilitation Beds in HSA III

Dear Dr. Ullrich:

I am the President and Chief Executive Officer of Iredell Health System, and I am writing to express my support, and the support of my colleagues at Iredell Health System, for the Petition filed for an Adjusted Need Determination for additional inpatient rehabilitation beds in HSA III.

As you may be aware, utilization in HSA III for inpatient rehabilitation beds has exceeded or been just under 80% for the past three years. In addition, one provider controls 95% of the licensed beds in the eight counties of HSA III.

Currently, there are no inpatient rehabilitation beds in Iredell County. Patient admissions may be delayed, or denied, and patients may end up receiving care in other settings which do not provide the same level of intensive rehabilitation with an experienced rehabilitation team. This Petition, if approved, will help to alleviate issues concerning access and ensure that patients receive the appropriate level of post-acute care in a timely manner. In addition, this Petition will promote cost-effective approaches and enhance the overall quality of healthcare services offered to the residents of Iredell and surrounding counties.

Please convey to the SHCC my enthusiastic support and that of my colleagues for the approval of this Petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Rush", written over a white background.

Ed Rush
President and Chief Executive Officer