

National Hospice and Palliative Care
Organization



August 9, 2017

Dear Ms. Brown,

We have been made aware of a letter from former NHPCO President and CEO Donald Schumacher, dated December 20, 2016, and its inclusion as a letter of support in a petition for a Hospice Homecare Office in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

It is NHPCO's position that the purpose or intent of the letter was not to be used as a letter of support for a single hospice provider to the exclusion of other potential applicants.

It is the practice of NHPCO to work in collaboration with state membership organizations and local hospice providers in our advocacy efforts. Our goal is to offer support so that hospice providers have the greatest opportunity to offer quality hospice care in the communities they serve.

NHPCO remains committed to ensuring access to quality hospice for all citizens. While nationally only about 7.6% of hospice patients utilize hospice services, we are aware that 13.55% of hospice admissions in North Carolina are African American and we are pleased to see that in Mecklenburg County African American admission make up 20.96% of all admissions. In addition, we are aware of the numerous minority outreach efforts that Mecklenburg County hospice providers offer their community as they continue to increase access to underserved populations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edo Banach', written in a cursive style.

Edo Banach
President & CEO