

Public Hearing Notes on the proposed 2023 State Medical Facilities
Recommendation for Vascular Surgical Facility in Nash County

I am Robert Baggett, 35-year retired police officer. I tell police cadets all the time where you stand is what you see. I am standing before you today as a dialysis patient.

My kidneys do not work. I go to dialysis 3 times a week. I leave at 7 o'clock in the morning and get home at 12-noon. The first thing they do at the clinic is take my temperature, listen for my vitals, weigh me, and check out my fistula. The fistula surgically implanted that connects my body to the machine through needles.

The fistula takes a lot of wear and tear. I need 2-4 procedures done a year at a vascular clinic. The problem is the nearest clinic is an hour and half away. So, I drive for an hour and half; stay there an hour and half; and drive home an hour and half, if everything goes smooth. This is inconvenient but is manageable. The problem is when you have an emergency case. When your dialysis clinic says your fistula is not working, they must schedule this appointment. Sometimes it takes 2-3 days to get an appointment scheduled. During these times, you are not receiving any treatments at all: meaning your body is building a lot of fluid, toxins and you just do not feel good; And it takes a while to get back to normal.

Some might say, why don't you just go to the hospital emergency room. That is an option but is not a good one. Fistula emergencies are not real emergencies in the emergency room. They deal with crimes, car wrecks and other surgical needs. Also, the emergency room at Nash UNC does not have a fistula vascular surgeon(s), only general surgeons. The cost of going to the emergency room is 4x higher than going to a vascular clinic. You can see an emergency case done at a hospital is not as good as doing an emergency fistula case by a vascular surgeon.

I am just one of thousands of patients in the Rocky Mount area, that need this procedure done several times a year. If Dr. Gupta is willing to set up a vascular surgery center and invest in my health, I support him 100%.

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