



“Carrying the Sword Against Prostate Cancer for the Next Generation”

August 10, 2022

To whom it may concern:

Reference: WakeMed Linear Accelerator Support Letter

The North Carolina Minority Prostate Cancer Awareness Action Team, kindly submits this letter of support for WakeMed’s petition for a Linear Accelerator in service area 20.. The NC Minority Prostate Cancer Awareness Action Team from its beginnings in the late 1980’s has sought to address the lack of access to care in the Wake zip code 27610. The current Linear Accelerators owned by Duke and UNC are not located where the biggest disparities exist. This places a heavy burden on African American and Latino populations that are uninsured and use WakeMed as their primary care provider.

The Action Team sees a Linear Accelerator at WakeMed addressing the access to care issue as currently uninsured patients wait an average of 67 days to see one of the other two systems oncologists as compared to the insured who only wait 15 days. This disparity is caused by many factors, but one is the lack of an Accelerator at WakeMed. The Action Team is thrilled that the WakeMed System has developed an oncology program to address these disparities, but the system is in dire need of a Linear Accelerator. It is well known by evidence from the American Cancer Society that the cancer rates among the uninsured have and will double and triple due to the lack of services. WakeMed under the leadership of Dr. Vijay Chaudary, Chief of Oncology is committed to address this and has our full support.

It is known that the underutilization of Linear Accelerators in the other systems is not addressing the cancer disparities that WakedMed faces. Granting this petition will go a long way in saving lives and reducing the morbidity and mortality in Wake Counties minority uninsured populations, which continue to grow and grow. With the Linear Accelerator, WakeMed will be able to provide a comprehensive cancer program that is fully accessible to minority populations that have put their faith in WakeMed for decades. It makes no sense that the largest health system based in Wake County, North Carolina has no Linear Accelerator. Please, approved this request and make a demonstrative step in addressing health disparities in our community.

Sincerely,

James A. Smith, III, MD, DLFAPA
President