


Wilkes Regional
Medical Center

DFS Health Planning
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Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

VIA E-MAIL TO: DHSR.SMFP.Petitions-Comments@dhhs.nc.gov

North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation
Medical Facilities Planning Section
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2714

Re: Petition to the State Health Coordinating Council regarding Policy AC-3, submitted by Duke University Health System, Inc. d/b/a Duke University Hospital, North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Pitt County Memorial Hospital and UNC Hospitals at Chapel Hill

Dear Sir or Madam:

Wilkes Regional Medical Center wishes to express its support for the Petition filed by Duke University Health System, Inc. d/b/a Duke University Hospital, North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Pitt County Memorial Hospital and UNC Hospitals at Chapel Hill, to modify Policy AC-3 of the State Medical Facilities Plan.

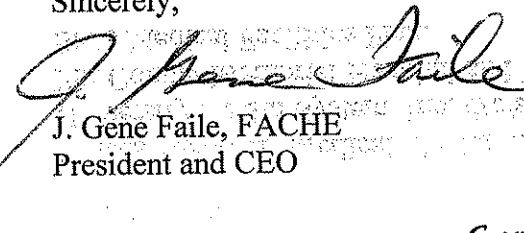
Academic Medical Center Teaching Hospitals (AMCs) provide a vital service to the residents of North Carolina, as well as hospitals such as us. Wilkes Regional Medical Center often refers patients to North Carolina Baptist Hospital for trauma, burns and other conditions that only the AMCs have the capability to treat. Many of the physicians currently practicing at Wilkes Regional Medical Center first began as a medical student or resident at one of the AMCs.

Although Policy AC-3 is only available to AMCs, Wilkes Regional Medical Center nevertheless supports the Policy, as it enables AMCs to meet their need to provide adequate resources to teach the future physicians in North Carolina. Policy AC-3 also helps AMCs develop new methods of patient care which eventually become standard practice in community hospitals such as ours.

The proposed revisions to Policy AC-3 strengthen and clarify the Policy, and allow for further expansion of its use by future AMCs. It also ensures fairness, by excluding from the need determination all Policy AC-3 projects and resulting services.

We appreciate the Medical Facilities Planning Section's and the State Health Coordinating Council's consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,


J. Gene Faile, FACHE
President and CEO

Caring for our community