From: <u>Debra Harris</u>

To: <u>DHSR.SMFP.Petitions-Comments</u>

Subject: [External] Opposition to Petition Submitted by Leading Age

Date: Thursday, March 22, 2018 12:08:36 PM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless verified. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to Report Spam.

I am writing as a Director of a county Based Agency. We stand in opposition to the Petition Submitted by LeadingAge North Carolina Proposing Policy Change for Home Health Agencies. AS a 29 year veteran of Home Health I have seen many fly by night schemes for facilities to skip the process and become a Home Health Agency. The CON was create to ensure that residents in North Carolina had access to Home Care Services in their residences which includes Assisted Living facilities. Currently in the areas that they have proposed this "carve out" does not have substantiated data to validate the need for more Agencies to cover patients. It is quite obvious that the need for these areas and all across the State are being met be exiting Medicare-Certified Agencies. If there is no documented need for more Home Health Providers, I find it ludicrous to even consider this Petition and perhaps the main reason to deny this petition is that it does not meet the requirements for such a petition. It does not contain documented data to prove the point, just another company that wants to make money from Medicare. I also see this as a detriment to Patient Choice. I urge you to deny this position and be safe in the knowledge that patients are already being care for and have many good options for Home Health Services rendered by Medicare Certified Home Health Agencies. Thank you for you your attention to this matter and for soliciting input from qualified providers.

Debra J. Harris Wilson county Home Health Agency director 252-237-4335 ex 6249 dharris@wilson-co.com