

HOSPITAL/HEALTH SYSTEM LETTERHEAD

Dear **XXXXX** Chamber Leaders,

We first and foremost want to share our thanks for your support for your community hospital. We've worked together on many initiatives to ensure that the care we provide for you, your family and your employees remains high quality and accessible. **[Thank you for signing the resolution in 2015 in support of [some of] XXXX health system's legislative priorities, [including...].** Our Chamber, along with business leaders representing more than 40 Chambers of Commerce across the state, recognizes that hospitals and health systems in NC play an important role in improving the health of our citizens and strengthening the economy of our communities.

The business of healthcare extends far beyond our community hospital into a robust and growing healthcare industry. This accounts for more than **XXX,XXX** jobs in our area **(or 1 in every # employed), with a payroll of \$\$\$ billion and a total economic impact of \$\$\$ billion.*** Doctors, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, consultants, researchers, educators – healthcare offers a wide range of jobs for those who provide care and those who support that effort behind the scenes – lawyers, accountants, property managers, and more. We see examples of this in ***[include names and employee numbers for other local businesses who are active in the healthcare space. E.g. Company Healthcare employing 1,200 in the COUNTY area and manufacturing healthcare products distributed all over the country.]***

As you also know, a healthy community drives a healthy economy. For our community to have the workforce it needs to make our businesses grow and thrive, employees need to have access to the care that keeps them healthy. As new employers consider moving to our area, they want to know that their employees will have access to quality care, as well. We are proud to be one of the primary providers of that care, and as a result, continue to hold fast to our mission to elevate healthcare as a priority issue in our state. Like you, we

know the future health of our workforce will rely on partnerships – with patients, employers, providers, and the healthcare industries that not only provide jobs, but support a strong healthcare ecosystem like suppliers and pharmacy companies. To that end, we request that you add “Healthcare” to the Chamber’s legislative agenda for the coming year.

I welcome any opportunity to share more details with the Chamber about the impact of your support and various legislative issues on your hospital and, in turn, your businesses. Together, we can ensure that healthcare receives the attention it deserves in our state and for our community. Please reach out to me as a resource for any health care information, questions or concerns. Thank you for letting us support this community.

Sincerely,

HOSPITAL PRESIDENT(S)

(Sign a letter collectively with other health systems in your area, if applicable)

Proposed language for inclusion in XXX Chamber of Commerce Legislative Agenda:

[Choose one of the following statements to include in your request based on the needs of your health system.

Option (A) provides the broadest perspective.]

HEALTHCARE

- (A) The XXXX Chamber understands that access to quality healthcare is vital to employers and employees. We support legislative programs and policies that address issues positively impacting access to care, increased quality of care, and overall cost of care. The North Carolina Legislature and Governor should work with the business community, health care providers and other stakeholders to develop solutions to improve healthcare in North Carolina.
- (B) The XXX Chamber recognizes the economic benefit of a healthy community. We support policies that aid in the transformation of healthcare systems to improve health outcomes and quality of life for all citizens of XXX County.
- (C) Access to high quality health care is important to our business community, our residents and the guests who visit our community. Because XXXXXX Health System is one of the [##] largest employers in the XXXX County and serves more than XXX people each year, the XXXX Chamber of Commerce supports XXXX Health System and promotes healthcare and wellness initiatives that improve quality of healthcare, access to services, and efficiency and affordability in care delivery.
- (D) The XXXX Chamber supports the mission of XXX Hospital to serve the residents and guests who visit our community, and acknowledges that the hospital/health system must have the ability to maintain its role as a "healthcare safety net" for all persons regardless of ability to pay.