

HOSPITAL/HEALTH SYSTEM LETTERHEAD

Dear **XXXXX** Chamber Leaders,

We appreciate your continued support of your community hospital to care for you, your family and your employees all day, every day. We've worked together on many initiatives to ensure that this care remains strong. As the primary providers of care in your community, we are requesting that you adopt the following legislative priorities outlined in the attached document as part of the Chamber's legislative agenda for the coming year. Encouraging legislators to act on behalf of business leaders supporting healthy hospitals will allow us to continue providing the care you need, when you need it, to everyone at the most affordable cost, and with the greatest quality and outcomes.

I welcome any opportunity to share more details with the Chamber about the impact of these issues on your hospital and, in turn, your businesses. Please reach out to me, and your hospital, as a resource for any health care information, questions or concerns. Thank you for letting us support this community.

Sincerely,

HOSPITAL PRESIDENT

North Carolina Hospitals are open all day, every day. We employ over 200,000 North Carolinians and contribute billions to the economy every year. Our mission is to provide care to all, regardless of their ability to pay.

North Carolina hospitals are in the midst of transforming our delivery of care to respond to the changing needs of our state. Our goal is to provide the appropriate level of care in the appropriate setting with the best outcomes. In order to meet our mission while transforming, your North Carolina hospitals support the following positions and reminds you that your decisions affect the ability of your constituents to continue receiving world-class care in their community.

Behavioral Health

North Carolina hospitals and health systems support access to appropriate levels of care for our behavioral health patients. The state should improve payment models to help behavioral health patients reach the right providers at the right time — and to compensate those providers for the care they provide, whether for crisis or non-crisis care. North Carolina should also remove all barriers to ensure that providers are enabled to refer patients to the right level of care, especially when the patient would otherwise wait in the Emergency Department.

Certificate of Need

North Carolina hospitals and health systems support the current services covered under North Carolina's Certificate of Need law. We recognize that the application and appeals process could be updated to be more streamlined and efficient, and that monetary thresholds for capital expenditures could be increased in response to modern economic conditions. We have been and continue to be supportive of efforts to do so in the rules review process.

Tax Exemptions

North Carolina should join the majority of states that do not tax sales or purchases made by not-for-profit organizations. This exemption recognizes the millions of dollars provided to communities by hospitals, and provides an incentive for greater investment in unmet needs across the state.

Graduate Medical Education

North Carolina hospitals and health systems are training the medical workforce of tomorrow. To ensure adequate physician access to every North Carolinian, the General Assembly should provide funding sources for Graduate Medical Education.

Medicaid Reform

North Carolina hospitals and health systems support the on-going efforts to reform the Medicaid program and urge the General Assembly to pass legislation that ensures providers are able to practice within the Medicaid population without undue burden from regulators or insurance companies.

**XXXXX Chamber of Commerce Position Statement on
Healthcare Legislation for 2017-2018**

WHEREAS The North Carolina General Assembly returns for the Legislative Session in January 2017, and

WHEREAS The XXXXX Chamber of Commerce supports our community hospital and

WHEREAS The XXXXX Chamber of Commerce believes that a healthy hospital and, in turn, a healthy workforce provides an opportunity for business growth and

WHEREAS The XXXXX Chamber of Commerce views XXX Hospital as a vital contributor to economic growth as [one of] the largest employers in COUNTY (employing XXX residents) and providing 1.2 jobs outside of the hospital for every job within the hospital system and

WHEREAS The XXX Hospital provides \$\$\$\$ in uncompensated care to our most vulnerable citizens and

WHEREAS hospitals across NC are transforming their business practices to provide high quality, cost-effective care, even as federal and state budget cuts continue to threaten hospitals' viability and ability to give that care and

WHEREAS The XXXX Chamber of Commerce acknowledges that XXXX Hospital is a valuable asset to our community and should be supported by businesses and individuals so that it may continue its mission to care for all citizens, regardless of their ability to pay, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT THE XXXXX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ENDORSES THE FOLLOWING HEALTHCARE RELATED LEGISLATION:

THEREFORE The Chamber supports improved payment models to help behavioral health patients reach the right providers at the right time, and

THEREFORE The Chamber supports the current Certificate of Need (CON) as it protects access to healthcare and all providers' abilities to remain in the community at the lowest cost possible, and

THEREFORE The Chamber supports the current tax exemptions for North Carolina's nonprofit organizations, including hospitals, enabling continued community benefits, and

THEREFORE The Chamber supports the General Assembly providing funding sources for Graduate Medical Education, ensuring adequate physician access to every North Carolinian.

THEREFORE The Chamber supports ongoing efforts to reform the Medicaid program ensuring that providers are able to practice within the Medicaid population without undue burden from regulators or insurance companies. And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT As a representative of the COUNTY business community, we appreciate the efforts at healthcare reform. We encourage the legislature be mindful of the important role that our hospitals and health systems play in both the health of our citizens and the strength of our economy.

This the ___ day of _____, ____

This Resolution shall be transmitted to the delegation of General Assembly Members representing this chamber, to the Governor, and the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce.