Hospitals and health systems are major contributors to our state’s economy, directly and indirectly supporting nearly 395,000 jobs statewide and occupying some of the top slots of North Carolina’s list of largest employers. These jobs provided more than $22.4 billion in wages, salaries and benefits to North Carolina’s workforce. For every one hospital job, there are 2.44 total jobs in the state’s economy.* With the increase in the nation’s aging population — and the continued flow of retirees to points south — the demand for hospital and healthcare jobs is only expected to continue.

Hospitals and health systems deliver valuable low-cost and free-of-charge services that contribute to the overall wellness of their communities. Hospitals re-invest in their local communities with transformational programs like well-care services after discharge, health screenings, wellness education, and other community outreach programs, such as farmer’s markets and food pantries. They are very often at the forefront of innovative programs and community partnerships that allow them to contribute to the day-to-day wellness of our citizens.

Having a hospital at the ready to respond to disasters and address the needs of ailing employees is as essential as good roads and favorable taxes. North Carolina’s hospitals are always ready, maintaining trained personnel, equipment and supplies to prepare for any emergency, no matter how small or large. During the 2014 Ebola outbreak, North Carolina’s hospitals and health systems dedicated a tremendous amount of resources — in funds and personnel training — preparing to keep patients and employees safe.

Like churches, colleges and YMCAs, non-profit hospitals exist to support the public good. In 2015 alone, North Carolina hospitals provided nearly $2 billion in unreimbursed care to our state’s most critically ill and vulnerable patients.* In addition, our hospitals contribute toward the state’s share of caring for the Medicaid population through an assessment program. In 2017, hospitals contributed nearly $875 million, while the state provided almost $510 million.**

* According to a 2017 report by RTI International and North Carolina Hospital Association.
** According to 2017 data compiled by the North Carolina Hospital Association.