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November 30, 2021

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Via Email and U.S. Mail
Logan.Grant@tn.gov

Mr. Logan Grant
Executive Director
Tennessee Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor
502 Deadrick Street
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital
CN2109-026

Dear Mr. Grant:

This letter is submitted on behalf of our clients, Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital (Murfreesboro) and Saint Thomas Stones River Hospital (Woodbury)¹ in opposition to the certificate of need application filed by Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (hereinafter "VRH") to establish a new, full service, 42-bed, acute care hospital, including cardiac catheterization services, in Murfreesboro.

This is the second application filed by VRH for a new hospital at the same location. Its first application, filed in April 2020, proposed a four-county service area, a 6-bed neonatal intensive care unit, and cardiac catheterization services. It was hurriedly drafted and filed in reaction to Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital's application to establish its Westlawn Satellite Hospital. VRH requested simultaneous review for its competing application. At its August 2020 meeting, the Agency approved the Westlawn Satellite Hospital application on a 5-1 vote, and the motion to deny the VRH application carried 4-2. VRH appealed that decision, and while its appeal was being actively litigated, it filed this second application.

¹ Saint Thomas Stones River Hospital is the only hospital in Cannon County. It is located 20 miles from Murfreesboro and in FY2021 had an operating loss of \$2,270,000.

Simply stated, the current application is as flawed as the first. It is a thinly veiled attempt by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (hereinafter “VUMC”) to capture market share and dominate the SR-840 and I-24 corridors. It is premised upon attacks on the quality of care at Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital, unrealistic projections, and misleading commentary about inpatient hospital admissions, emergency department visits, out-migration of Rutherford County residents to Nashville area hospitals, and re-direction of patients from Rutherford County and surrounding counties to the proposed hospital. While it reduces the original four-county service area to only Rutherford County, it still fails to meet either the numeric need or utilization threshold which is required under the standards and criteria for certificate of need for a new hospital. The application then states that 18% of its admissions will come from surrounding counties.

Instead, VRH creates out of thin air an implausible hypothesis for bed need that there is an “artificially suppressed lack of access” in Rutherford County. This ignores basic health planning facts. Younger and healthier populations, like Rutherford County (2nd youngest of 95 counties and 4th healthiest of 95 counties), do not utilize inpatient beds to the same degree as the Tennessee population overall.² Such groups have lower discharges per thousand population, thus requiring fewer beds per thousand population.

Neither are Rutherford County inpatients forced to leave their county for inpatient services. To the contrary, Rutherford County inpatients have the least amount of outmigration of the Nashville suburban counties profiled in the VRH application. And when Rutherford County inpatients do choose to travel outside their home county for inpatient care, the majority select Saint Thomas Health and TriStar facilities – not VUMC.

It not only fails to validate any advantages to consumers, but it would actually have a negative impact on medical services provided in smaller communities. In a desperate attempt to gain approval, it includes affidavits from individuals and physicians which were originally filed as exhibits in its appeal. These affidavits contain mistakes, omit relevant information, and include facts completely taken out of context as part of an attempt to justify a project that is not needed. All of these affidavits were executed in June 2021, more than 3 months prior to this application being filed on October 15, 2021. However, VRH dismissed its appeal before any statements in those affidavits could be challenged during depositions.

Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital has grown with the service area, and since 2016, its licensed beds have increased from 286 to 358. Licensed beds will increase to 416 beds in 2023 in order to provide necessary care space for open heart surgery and trauma patients. These enhancements will result in improved patient care three years earlier than what VRH proposes to complete in 2026. Emergency department treatment rooms have increased from 46 to 64, with

²In sharp contrast, Vanderbilt tacitly admits that younger and healthier populations require fewer healthcare resources. Three times, the lower healthcare utilization among the Austin Peay State University student population is cited in CN2109-027, Tennova Healthcare – Clarksville. This is a Vanderbilt joint venture CON application to establish a 12-bed satellite hospital with 14 treatment rooms. “This is mostly a young population, but the students and faculty still require hospital services (emergency as well as inpatient).”

eight more opening in late 2022 at the Westlawn Satellite Hospital. NICU beds will increase from 16 to 22 in 2023. The hospital general medical staff has grown from 408 in 2016 to 554 in 2021, and physician recruitment continues to be a priority for the hospital. There are also 207 allied health professionals on the hospital staff.

Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital has served Murfreesboro and Rutherford County for over 90 years. Over the last 15 years, Saint Thomas Health has invested over \$500 Million in new capital projects in Murfreesboro, including:

- A 286-bed replacement hospital
- A radiation therapy replacement facility
- The replacement and relocation of Murfreesboro Diagnostic Imaging
- A 72-bed hospital expansion with all beds operational and staffed in January 2021³
- The New Salem ASTC
- The New Salem Imaging Outpatient Diagnostic Center
- Westlawn Satellite Hospital (8 new ED rooms, 8 licensed beds relocated from the main campus, scheduled to open in 2022)
- Westlawn ASTC (scheduled to open in 2022)
- Open heart surgery service (scheduled to start in 2023)
- A 58-bed hospital expansion which will begin in 2022 and completed in 2023
- During the past five years, Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital has provided \$204 Million in charity care and other community benefits to Rutherford County

VRH relies on the 2021 CON legislation to support its application. However, the legislation exempts the expansion of existing hospitals from CON, but requires CON review and approval for new hospitals. As an existing hospital, Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital is allowed to add any hospital beds without CON approval. Likewise, VUMC could also expand its licensed beds at its hospitals, including its downtown campus, Vanderbilt Wilson County, Vanderbilt Bedford County, and Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton without CON approval. Furthermore, there is nothing in the past, today, or in the future which would prevent VUMC from adding unlimited physician clinics, outpatient surgery, or diagnostic services in Rutherford County to serve its existing patients. After acquiring Vanderbilt Bedford County and Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton Hospitals, Wright Pinson, Deputy CEO of Vanderbilt Medical Center, stated in the *VUMC Reporter* on January 1, 2021, “[t]hrough this transaction, VUMC will be able to continue the work it has begun with Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital in extending the benefits of academic medicine – cutting edge treatments and the knowledge that comes from research and education – to the residents of Bedford, Coffee, Montgomery, Rutherford and Sumner counties.”

³ These 72 beds were not included in the Tennessee Department of Health Report which calculated a 77-bed surplus in Rutherford County. The 72 beds increase the licensed bed surplus to 149 licensed beds under the TDOH calculation. The Agency’s Staff Summary calculated a current surplus of 145 licensed beds in Rutherford County.

The new CON statute does not replace the bed need criteria and standards for new hospitals. The Tennessee Department of Health and the HSDA staff project a surplus of hospital beds in the service area for several years, whether it considers only Rutherford County, or the original VRH four county service area. Furthermore, this application neither meets the numeric bed need criteria, nor the minimum 80% inpatient utilization level for hospitals in the service area.

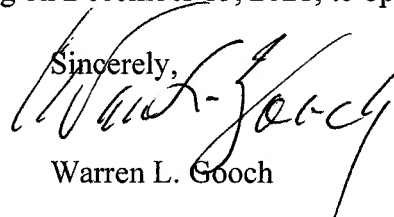
Consumer advantage has not been established for this project. VUMC charges for both inpatient and outpatient services are generally the highest in the region. VUMC only uses a hospital-based model for all its services. The disadvantages to consumers under this business model are addressed in letters filed by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee, hospitals, physician groups, other health care organizations, and concerned citizens.

VUMC continues to experience staffing shortages at all its hospitals and is offering substantial sign-on bonuses to attract staff. This drives up wages and operating costs, not only for VUMC and its affiliated hospitals, but for all hospitals in the Midstate. The undeniable result of rising wages and operating costs due to VUMC's actions will be increased costs for consumers, payors, and employers providing insurance coverage for their employees.

VRH is not proposing any service which is not already available in the region. Its projections for cardiac catheterization utilization are not credible when compared to the utilization history at VUMC. VRH cannot meet its inpatient and emergency department utilization projections without redirecting patients from Rutherford County and surrounding counties. Indeed, its projection to redirect 6% of its admissions from Warren County, 52 miles away, confirms this fact. VRH will reduce the available access for consumers served by smaller, financially vulnerable, sole community hospitals.

Finally, VRH projects that its percentage of therapeutic cardiac catheterization cases will be 45% more than the current percentage performed by physicians at Vanderbilt Heart Murfreesboro. The total number of therapeutic cardiac catheterizations projected by VRH from FY2021 to Year 3 increases by 40%. The number is not only wildly exaggerated, but also undermines the VRH claim that it will be only treating 100% non-tertiary patients.

Representatives of Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital and Saint Thomas Stones River Hospital will attend the Agency's meeting on December 15, 2021, to oppose the project.

Sincerely,

Warren L. Gooch

WLG:dt

cc: Ginna Felts, Vice President, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Travis Swearingen, Esq.

November 30, 2021

via email to logan.grant@tn.gov

Mr. Logan Grant
Executive Director
Tennessee Health Services and Development Agency
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Andrew Jackson Building
Nashville, TN 37243-0200

Re: **Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (2d Application) - CN2109-026 (VRH-2)**

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am the Chief Executive Officer of TriStar StoneCrest Medical Center in Rutherford County at 200 StoneCrest Boulevard, Smyrna, TN 37167 (StoneCrest). StoneCrest is located in the service area claimed by Vanderbilt in its most recent CON Application (CN2109-026) for a new hospital to be called Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital) (VRH-2).

StoneCrest is a 119-licensed bed acute care hospital in Rutherford County. StoneCrest is located approximately 8.3 miles from the proposed new Vanderbilt hospital in Rutherford County.

StoneCrest has served residents of Rutherford County for 18 years. StoneCrest offers all of the services proposed for VRH-2 as well as a number of other specialized services and programs. StoneCrest is recognized for its high quality and excellence in service delivery. StoneCrest has the following distinctions among others:

- “A” rated by the Leapfrog Group for overall quality.
- Blue Distinction for its Total Hip and Knee Replacement Center and Center for Spine Surgery
- Gold Seal of Approval from the Joint Commission for its Total Hip and Knee Replacement Center and Center for Spine Surgery
- Level III Trauma Center
- Hernia Surgery Center of Excellence
- Accredited Chest Pain Center
- Primary Stroke Center Certification
- Recognized as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures from The Joint Commission
- Cancer Center Accreditation
- American Heart Association “Bronze” Get with the Guidelines Distinction
- Sleep Center Accreditation

As you know, on August 26, 2020, the HSDA denied Vanderbilt's CON application for a nearly identical hospital (CN2004-012 (VRH-1)) and approved the CON application of St. Thomas Rutherford Hospital (STRH) for an 8-inpatient bed hospital across the street from the proposed Vanderbilt facility (STRH Westlawn Hospital).

StoneCrest opposes the VRH-2 application because a new community hospital is not needed in Rutherford County and because the residents of Rutherford County will not benefit from the duplication of services in the community or the increased cost imposed upon the healthcare system here.

VRH-2 Does Not Meet State Need Criteria

As you know, the HSDA is required to follow the criteria set forth in the State Health Plan for evaluating new healthcare facilities or services. These criteria articulate what the Agency is to consider in evaluating need. Of significance here, none of the hospitals in Rutherford County are currently operating at optimal capacity. In StoneCrest's 2020 JAR, we reported a 53.6% occupancy considering our staffed beds. If all licensed beds are considered, we were at 51.3% occupancy in 2020.

The other acute care hospital in Rutherford County, STRH, opened 72 new beds this year from a CON authorizing this expansion, bringing its total to 358 beds. Considering its 2020 discharges and patient days, STRH is operating at only 64.7% capacity.¹

Therefore, based on the CON Criteria alone, the VRH-2 project does not meet this Agency's own requirements. This conclusion was also reached by the HSDA Staff when it concluded that the VRH-2 proposal "**Did not meet the standard of #1. Determination of Need.**" The Staff went on to explain that: *"The bed need formula applied to the service area (Rutherford County) results in a surplus of 145 licensed acute care beds and 37 staffed acute care beds. Existing service area acute care hospitals did not exceed 80% staffed occupancy for the past two consecutive years."*

The 42-bed hospital proposed in VRH-2 is just another acute care community hospital for a community that is bristling with community hospital beds. STRH has 358 licensed beds, and StoneCrest is licensed for 119 beds. Both the HSDA Staff and the Department of Health concluded that there is a bed-surplus in Rutherford County – and that was without considering the 72 additional beds that STRH has opened.

VRH-2 Not Needed

In its VRH-1 CON Application, Vanderbilt used a much larger service area. All told, the earlier service area was larger than six (6) counties (all of Rutherford, Cannon, Warren, Bedford, White and DeKalb Counties plus a large portion of Williamson County).

¹ In addition, STRH has announced the opening of another 58 new beds, which will further supplement the availability of acute care hospital beds in Rutherford County.

The current Application claims a single county as its service area (Rutherford County), but the proposed hospital is not otherwise materially different from VRH-1. The only differences are six fewer in-patient beds (reduced from 48 to 42), and the reduction in specialty services (VRH-2 will not offer Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) services).

In addition to the other rural hospitals in the area, Vanderbilt now owns three (3) hospitals in vicinity of VRH-2. None of the nearby rural hospitals are close to optimal capacity as shown in the table below:

Hospital	County	Licensed Beds	2020 Patient Days	Occupancy % Licensed Beds
Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital (20.7 miles away)	Bedford	60	2,478	11.3%
St. Thomas Stones River Hospital (24.7 miles away)	Cannon	60	5,554	25.3%
Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital (26.7 miles away)	Wilson	170	13,554	21.8%
Unity Medical Center – Manchester (34.7 miles away)	Coffee	49	2,622	14.6%
Vanderbilt Tullahoma Harton Hospital (36.5 miles away)	Coffee	135	10,148	20.5%
St. Thomas River Park Hospital (44.4 miles away)	Warren	125	10,947	23.9%

Source: 2020 JARs

With nearby rural hospitals at staggeringly low occupancy rates (between 11.3% and 25.3%) in 2020, StoneCrest questions how anyone can justify building a new hospital in Murfreesboro. Vanderbilt owns three (3) hospitals in the area and can direct its community hospital patients to those facilities – in nearby Shelbyville, Lebanon, and Tullahoma – if it really needs to decompress its Nashville hospital.

Community Need

Vanderbilt’s main argument is that it needs another hospital to download or “decant” volume from its busy Nashville campus. This is a red herring. Vanderbilt has three (3) hospitals in the area that are woefully short of optimal capacity to which it could “decant” its “excessive volumes” from its main campus hospital. At its three nearby hospitals, Vanderbilt regularly has three hundred (300) empty beds. Two of three Vanderbilt hospitals are actually closer to the proposed facility than the VUMC campus in Nashville. Therefore, it is obvious that Vanderbilt could send the extra community hospital patients that it serves in Nashville now to its 3 nearby hospitals in Shelbyville, Lebanon and Tullahoma.

Although Vanderbilt also contends that it serves 52,000 Rutherford County patients at various Vanderbilt facilities in Nashville, Murfreesboro and elsewhere, there is no evidence in the application or available from any public source that supports that number. Considering the in-patient acute care services to be offered at VRH-2, in 2019, VUMC had only 1,601 “community hospital” in-patients from Rutherford County and even fewer in-patients from Rutherford went to VUMC in 2020 – 1,334.²

In fact, in 2020, the percentage of Rutherford County “community hospital” in-patients served at the VUMC campus was a small portion of the community hospital in-patients as a whole, less than 10% as shown by the chart below.

2020 Rutherford County Community Hospital Discharges

Hospital	Discharges	Market Share
St. Thomas Rutherford	7,753	55.4%
TriStar StoneCrest	2,786	19.9%
VUMC	1,334	9.5%
TriStar Centennial	632	4.5%
St. Thomas Midtown	412	2.9%
All Other	1,069	7.6%
Total	13,986	100.0%

Rutherford County patients who want to use Vanderbilt facilities already have access to VUMC services at its outpatient centers and physicians’ offices. Vanderbilt does not propose to offer the specialized services that it has at VUMC at VRH-2. Patients needing specialized care will still have to go to hospitals in Nashville, such as VUMC, or to the hospitals in Rutherford County that offer more specialized care than VRH-2 will: STRH and StoneCrest.

The Rutherford County populace is very healthy relative to the State as a whole.³ The ratio of Rutherford County residents who became in-patients at any hospital to the population of the County as a whole is very low. Despite a worldwide pandemic that pushed most hospitals to their limit, the rate at which Rutherford County residents became community hospital in-patients remained very low and has actually declined.

- The per 1,000 patient days for community hospital patients who had in-patient stays in a hospital from Rutherford County actually decreased from 2016 through 2020: (119.5 in 2016 to 114.1 in 2020).

² Vanderbilt’s JARs for its Nashville campus included adult, pediatric, and mental health patients.

³ The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2020 study ranked Rutherford County 4th in Tennessee for health outcomes. See <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/reports/state-reports/2020-tennessee-report>

This is reinforced by Vanderbilt's own Community Health Assessment that "***Overall, Rutherford County is one of the healthiest counties in Tennessee.***" 2019 Vanderbilt CHNA Report, p. 69. There is no reference in Vanderbilt's own assessment report in 2019 of the need for a new hospital in Rutherford County.

Duplication of Cardiac Catheterization Services

Since Vanderbilt has pulled the NICU from its prior proposal, a Cardiac Cath is the only specialized service to be offered at VRH-2. There is no need for another Cath Lab in Rutherford County. STRH has four (4) Cath labs and StoneCrest has two (2). StoneCrest's Cath Labs are operating at far less than optimal capacity (approximately 50%) and are available for use in the community now.

No Other Specialty Service

Vanderbilt has obtained affidavits from dozens of Murfreesboro Medical Clinic (MMC) doctors claiming that VRH-2 is needed in Murfreesboro. Many of these doctors in their affidavits claim that a Vanderbilt hospital is needed because of the specialty services that VUMC has, apparently not realizing that VRH-2 will not replicate the specialized services available at VUMC in Nashville and will only provide community hospital services and no new recognized services that are not already available at STRH and StoneCrest.

Furthermore, the MMC physician affidavits relied upon by Vanderbilt for the most part act like StoneCrest does not exist. This is particularly difficult to understand when many patients of the same MMC doctors are cared as in-patients at StoneCrest today. In 2020 alone, MMC doctors had over 500 in-patients at StoneCrest. We have been privileged to care for MMC patients and will continue to do so in the future. We do not understand why the MMC doctors omit StoneCrest from their consideration of the availability of hospital services in Rutherford County.

Remember, VRH-2 will only care for "community hospital" patients. These patients can be treated in any hospital that is in or near Rutherford County today. Therefore, VRH-2 is an unnecessary duplication of services, at great cost to the community (over \$140 million dollars).

No Consumer Advantage

The proposed new hospital in Rutherford County will not bring greater access to community-hospital services to the area. Vanderbilt is not proposing to bring any services to the area that are not already being provided by hospitals in Rutherford and surrounding counties.

The impact of having another community hospital in the area with 42 new beds will not be advantageous for consumers. Instead, by adding services already available in the community, the duplication of services will increase costs for consumers.

VUMC is the highest cost provider in the region. In addition, Vanderbilt says it based its projections on data from its “community hospitals.” The average charge and average cost for an in-patient stay at both VUMC **and** Vanderbilt-Wilson are greater than StoneCrest or STRH as shown in the chart below:

	VUMC	Vanderbilt Wilson	STRH	StoneCrest
Average Charge	\$97,325	\$81,542	\$48,874	\$64,069
Average Cost	\$20,768	\$9,268	\$8,670	\$7,471

Source: *Stratassan Analysis of Medicare Cost Reports 2020-2021 (Publicly Available Data)*

Even projecting for “community hospital” patients only, using the information provided by Vanderbilt in its VRH-1 application and its 2020 JARs, the adjusted gross and net revenue per discharge for VUMC and Vanderbilt-Wilson causes one to question the legitimacy of the VRH-2 projections.

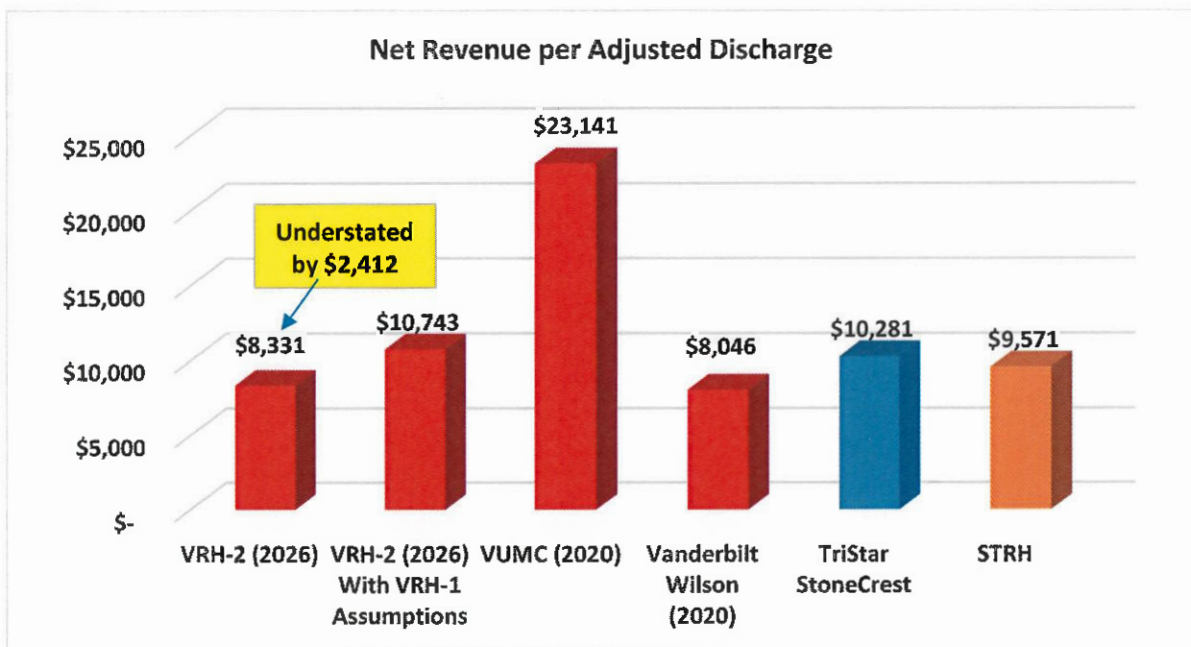
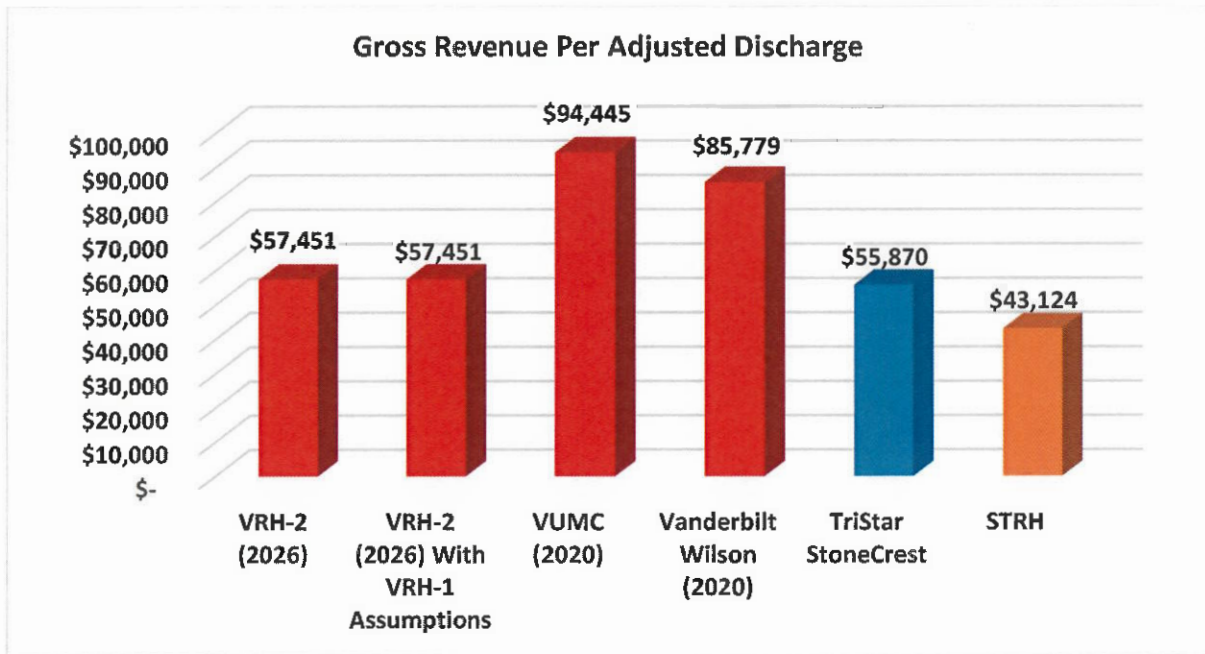
The dollar amount that a hospital charges (gross revenue) for a service is not the best measure of the cost to the consumer. The more accurate measure is the amount the hospital will accept in payment for the service. This is measured in VRH-1 and VRH-2 as the net revenue per adjusted patient discharge.

Because VRH-2 is a proposed new hospital, the VRH-2 CON application states that Vanderbilt used data from its community hospitals as the model for the projections in the VRH-2 application. The Vanderbilt Wilson hospital is the only one for which JAR data is available because the other two Vanderbilt community hospitals in the area were acquired so recently that there is no JAR submission for those hospitals covering the time they have been operated by Vanderbilt.

The 2026 projected gross revenue per adjusted discharge for VRH-2 is far below the 2020 actual experience of Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital as well as VUMC. It is important to note that the VRH-2 projected gross revenue per adjusted discharge is above the levels at the two existing Rutherford County hospitals, StoneCrest and STRH. For the limited number of patients for whom gross charges are meaningful, VRH-2 offers no advantage to consumers.

The projected net revenue per adjusted discharge in the VRH-2 application does not use the same assumptions as VRH-1 with respect to the percentage of gross revenues that will be collected. The VRH-2 application presents a projected net revenue per adjusted discharge in 2026 of \$8,033 and assumes that VRH-2 will collect only 14.5% of its gross revenues. In the VRH-1 application, the assumed collection percentage was 18.7%. We believe that the assumptions of projected net revenue per adjusted discharge assumptions used in VRH-1 should continue to be used in the VRH-2 application, which results in a 2026 projected net revenue per adjusted discharge of \$10,743 using VRH-2’s understated gross revenue assumptions. If VRH-2’s gross revenues were assumed to be consistent with Vanderbilt Wilson County’s experience, VRH-2’s net revenue per adjusted discharge would be even higher. There is no evidence that VRH-2 will provide any advantage to Rutherford County consumers in terms of the cost of hospital care.

The following two graphs demonstrate this point:



The VRH-2 application understates the projected net revenue per adjusted discharge by \$2,412 (accepting the VRH-2 gross revenue projection, which as noted before does not match with Vanderbilt’s experience in Wilson County). Further, the \$10,743 projected net revenue per adjusted discharge result is greater than the same actual number for either StoneCrest or STRH in 2020 (\$10,281 and \$9,571, respectively).

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
TN Health Services and Development Agency
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This demonstrates that there is no benefit to the consumer in terms of what the consumer has to pay for medical services. The cost to the consumer using data from Vanderbilt's Wilson County hospital and Vanderbilt's projections in its VRH-1 application is actually greater than the current cost to the consumer in Rutherford County.

In addition, it is noteworthy that StoneCrest is in compliance with the CMS rules regarding hospital pricing transparency, while VUMC is not.

Burden on the Healthcare System and Cost

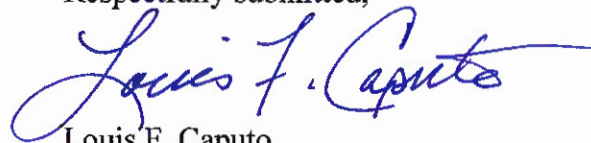
As duplicate and redundant health care facilities are added to a community, the charges for the services in the community will increase. These new redundant services are proposed by the highest charge and cost provider in the region.

In addition, the development of a new hospital by a new system in the county will increase the already acute staffing crisis that hospitals are experiencing. Currently, StoneCrest faces a 90+ day lag to be able to fill any position and a delay of over 110 days for RNs. VRH-2 offers no meaningful solution to the already difficult staffing challenges we are facing in this community.

For all these reasons, the Project should not be approved by the HSDA. The Project is not necessary to provide needed health care in the area to be served, and it will not positively impact consumers.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that Vanderbilt's VRH-2 application for a Certificate of Need (CN2109-096) be denied.

Respectfully submitted,



Louis F. Caputo
CEO
TriStar StoneCrest Medical Center

cc: M. Clark Spoden, Esq.
Ms. Ginna Felts, VUMC

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November 30, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Tennessee Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor
502 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243

Via Email – Logan.Grant@tn.gov

Re: Williamson Medical Center's Letter of Opposition to CON Application No. CN2109-026, for the establishment of Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant:

As you know, this firm represents Williamson Medical Center ("WMC") in Franklin, Tennessee. On behalf of Williamson Medical Center, we submit this letter of opposition to CON application CN2109-026, which seeks to establish Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital.

Williamson Medical Center, the public hospital for Williamson County located 20.1 miles from the Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital site, opposes this CON application for Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital ("VRH") because it fails to meet the need criterion of the CON law: It is not "necessary to provide needed healthcare in the area to be served", as this letter shows below.

WMC is the public hospital for Williamson County. It was set up by a private act passed by the General Assembly in 1957, and it is the only acute care hospital in Williamson County. As shown by the map of Williamson County zip codes attached as Exhibit A hereto, Williamson's entire eastern border comprises most of the western border of Rutherford County.

WMC asserts that CON application CN2109-026 should be denied because VRH is not needed as required by law, due to the following reasons:

- I. **As demonstrated by the contested case proceeding on the original VRH CON application denial by the HSDA in August 2020, which was voluntarily dismissed on appeal by VUMC in October 2021, VUMC has targeted portions of Williamson County in the development of the VRH project, including the current VRH CON application.**

The proposed site for VRH is approximately 5.5 miles from the Williamson/Rutherford county line. In the representations made by VUMC and its expert witnesses in the CON denial appeal proceedings that VUMC dismissed in October 2021, VUMC's original experts who assisted it in drafting and filing the original Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital CON application last

year – Pershing Yokley Associates (“PYA”) – stated on page 3 of their July 12, 2021 expert witness report for Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital that three Williamson County zip codes comprised the “secondary service area” for Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital:

1. PYA utilized VUMC’s definition of the “Rutherford Service Area” to include:
 - Primary: Rutherford, Bedford, Cannon, and Warren Counties.
 - Secondary: Zip codes 37014, 37046, and 37135 in Williamson County.
 - Other: DeKalb and White Counties.

The location of the proposed Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital in this current application is exactly the same as it was in the first Vanderbilt Rutherford CON application whose CON denial appeal VUMC dismissed last month. The only change from the first VRH CON application in beds and services proposed in the new VRH CON application at issue now is that the new application calls for six fewer hospital beds (for 42 beds, down from 48 beds in the original), and the current VRH application no longer calls for a neonatal intensive care unit (“NICU”) at Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital.

Williamson Medical Center currently has 203 licensed hospital beds. Its licensed bed occupancy rate was 50.3% in the fiscal year 2021, which ended on June 30, 2021. WMC was set up by the Legislature primarily to serve the people of Williamson County, which includes Williamson County residents who live in the zip codes of 37014, 37046, and 37135, as well as Williamson Countians who reside in zip code 37060, which contains a significant area in Williamson County although its post office is in Eagleville, in Rutherford County. At page 21 of the VRH CON application, VUMC projects that 18% of the VRH patients will come from outside Rutherford County. VUMC’s planning for VRH make clear that it has projected that many of these will be residents of Williamson County.

II. The Legislature has required in the new CON law that the provisions of the existing State Health Plan, including its Bed Need Formula, must apply to the HSDA’s decision on the new Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital CON application, but the VRH CON application does not comply with the State Health Plan.

The “service specific criteria and standards” reviewed in the HSDA’s “Application Review” of this CON application are found in the “Criteria and Standards” web pages on the HSDA website, in the document entitled “State of Tennessee State Health Plan Certificate of Need Standards and Criteria for Acute Care Beds.” Thus, the “Service Specific Criteria and Standards” analyzed on pages 3-4 of the Application Review are part of the State Health Plan referred to in the new CON law at T.C.A. § 68-11-1609(b).

The “Application Review” of the Vanderbilt Rutherford CON application specifically finds that this CON application “Did not meet the Standard of #1. Determination of Need:”; and that “The bed need formula applied to the service area (Rutherford County) results in a surplus of 145 licensed acute care beds and 37 staffed acute care beds. Existing service area acute care hospitals did not exceed 80% staffed bed occupancy for the past two consecutive years.”

VUMC objects to the State Health Plan's bed need formula on various grounds in pp. 2-3 (pp. 283-284 in the mailout materials) of the Vanderbilt Rutherford CON application's Need Analysis attachment. In doing so, VUMC ignores the Legislature's endorsement of the State Health Plan in the new CON law. That law now specifies, at T.C.A. § 68-11-1609(b), the criteria required to be satisfied before a CON can be granted by the HSDA as follows:

b. A certificate of need shall not be granted unless the action proposed in the application is necessary to provide needed health care in the area to be served, will provide health care that meets appropriate quality standards, and the effects attributed to duplication or competition would be positive for consumers. In making these determinations, the agency shall use as guidelines the goals, objectives, criteria and standards adopted to guide the agency in issuing certificates of need. Until the agency adopts its own criteria and standards by rule, those in the state health plan apply. Additional criteria for review of applications must also be prescribed by the rules of the agency. (Emphasis added.)

As this section of the new CON law makes clear, the HSDA has not yet adopted its own criteria and standards to replace those in the State Health Plan. Therefore, the criteria and standards in the State Health Plan, such as the Bed Need Formula, apply by law as they currently exist to all CON applications filed under the new law, such as VUMC's application to establish the Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital. VUMC cannot avoid the applicability of the existing State Health Plan and its Bed Need Formula to the Vanderbilt Rutherford CON application by speculating as to potential flaws in the criteria and standards of the State Health Plan. The Legislature has explicitly required that the existing criteria and standards of the State Health Plan must "apply" to the HSDA's proceedings, including those concerning the Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital CON application. The Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital CON application fails to meet the requirements of the State Health Plan, including its Bed Need Formula, as demonstrated on page 3 of the "Application Review", which is also page 3 of the mailout materials provided by the HSDA.

III. Three other counties which are among the ten largest counties in Tennessee by population have a lower "licensed hospital beds per 1,000 population ratio" than Rutherford County does.

VUMC's chart on p. 283 of the mailout CON for this project is erroneous because it looks at "2019 Staffed Beds" in conjunction with 2020 population to derive this ratio. The corrected version for 2020 Licensed Beds is set forth below:

Licensed Hospital Beds/County Per 1,000 Population

County	Total Acute Licensed Beds	2020 Census Population	Acute Hospital Beds per 1,000	Number of Hospitals
*Rutherford	477	341,486	1.4	2
Williamson	203	247,726	.82	1
Montgomery	270	220,069	1.23	1
Sumner	326	196,281	1.66	2
Wilson	170**	147,737	1.15	1

*St. Thomas Rutherford and Stonecrest Medical Center only, includes latest bed additions to St. Thomas Rutherford.

**Acute Beds only, per Vanderbilt Wilson’s 2020 Joint Annual Report.

The chart above includes five of the ten most populous counties in Tennessee: Rutherford, Williamson, Montgomery, Sumner, and Wilson. Comparing this chart to VUMC’s “General Acute Hospitals” chart on page 283 of the VRH CON application makes several things clear: for counties that are not major medical centers with tertiary and quaternary medical hospitals (unlike the major medical centers of Shelby, Davidson, and Hamilton Counties), the counties listed on this chart have relatively low ratios of hospital beds per 1,000 population. VUMC owns the only hospital in Wilson County, and has a significant ownership interest in the only hospital in Montgomery County. The “nine largest counties in Tennessee” do not include Madison County, despite VUMC’s erroneous inclusion of Madison County on its “General Acute Care Hospitals” on p. 283 of the CON application. The large medical centers in Davidson County pull significant patient volumes from Rutherford, Williamson, Sumner, Wilson, and Montgomery Counties. Three of the ten most populous counties in Tennessee have only one acute care hospital: Montgomery, Williamson, and Wilson. VUMC owns all of Wilson County’s hospital, and part of Montgomery County’s hospital.

Major medical center counties like Shelby, Davidson, Knox, and Hamilton retain most of hospital inpatients who live in those respective counties:

***Retention of Hospital Inpatients by County of Residence:**

County	Total 2020 County Discharges, Any Hospital	2020 Patients/Residents Retained	Retention %
Shelby	92,964	92,204	99.2%
Hamilton	34,947	33,400	95.6%
Davidson	69,457	65,304	94%
Knox	41,378	38,939	94.1%
Rutherford	27,760	18,408	66.3%
Montgomery	16,391	8,565	52.3%
Sumner	19,130	10,108	52.8%
Wilson	13,346	2,929	21.95%

*Data Source: Report 3, Summary Reports of Hospital Data for 2020, Tennessee Department of Health.

IV. The Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital CON application’s claims that inpatient care services in Rutherford County are currently being “artificially suppressed” are wrong.

VUMC’s objections to the State Health Plan’s Bed Need Formula are erroneous. Take, for example, VUMC’s assertion on page 3 of the application’s Need Attachment (mailout, page 284) that Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital is needed because VUMC has decided that the “use rate of inpatient care services” in Rutherford County is being “artificially suppressed due to lack of access.” Data in the chart below that assertion show that such an assertion is erroneous. The CON application’s Hospital Discharge Use Rate chart uses 2020 population data for each of the five counties divided into 2019 total hospital discharges for each of the five counties respectively. This process yields a “Discharges – Population per 1,000” county rate that VUMC claims to show an “artificial suppression of access to inpatient care services in Rutherford County.” This analysis is not only improperly done and incorrect in this CON application, but it is also potentially defamatory as to the physicians serving patients in Rutherford County—it implies that they are suppressing their patients’ access to inpatient care “artificially.”

This chart on page 284 in the CON application also erroneously overstates the 2020 “Discharges—Population per 1,000” rate for the first three counties (Shelby, Hamilton, and Davidson) listed. It understates the “Discharges Population per 1,000” of the last two counties, which include Rutherford County. When both 2020 population and 2020 total acute hospital discharge data (regardless of from where the hospital discharges occur) for the counties are used in the calculation of this rate, the resulting correct “Discharges-Population per 1,000” rates are as follows:

2020:

County	Discharges-Population per 1,000
Shelby	100 (CON app rate = 107.15)*
Hamilton	95.43 (CON app rate = 103.32)*
Davidson	97.02 (CON app rate = 99.89)*
Knox	86.38 (CON app rate = 86.15)*
Rutherford	81.29 (CON app rate = 78.09)*
For comparison: Montgomery	74.48

*The “Hospital Discharge Use Rate” as shown on page 3 of the CON application’s “Need Attachment.”

In 2020, total hospital discharges increased for the residents of Rutherford and Knox Counties from their 2019 levels, according to the Tennessee Department of Health’s “Summary Reports of Hospital Data” for 2020 and 2019. Rutherford’s total hospital discharges increased from 26,667 in 2019 to 27,760 in 2020 while Knox’s total hospital discharges went from 41,262 in 2019 to 41,378 in 2020.

Demographically, there is a key reason why Rutherford County’s Hospital Discharge Use Rate is lower than the other four urban counties – Rutherford County’s population aged 65+ is,

percentagewise, much lower than that of the four larger urban counties: in the 2020 census, the age 65+ population of Rutherford County comprised only 10.8% of its population, while 65+ population percentages for the other four urban counties were as follows: Shelby = 14%; Hamilton = 17.9%; Davidson = 12.5% and Knox = 16.2%. Montgomery County, whose 2020 Hospital Discharge Use Rate of 74.48 was lower than Rutherford's, had an age 65+ population percentage in the 2020 census of 9.5%.

Moreover, in VUMC's 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment ("CHNA"), published by VUMC in November 2019, it reported on page 69 thereof that: "Overall, Rutherford County is one of the healthiest counties in Tennessee." Being "one of the healthiest counties in Tennessee" should lead to a lower "use rate of inpatient services" than is experienced in Tennessee counties that are not as healthy. This result is evidence of the absence of "artificial suppression" of inpatient care. Also, nowhere in VUMC's 2019 CHNA chapter on Rutherford County does VUMC identify a need for a new hospital in Rutherford County.

V. **VUMC's own data in this application and its business investment decisions demonstrate that its claim of "artificial suppression" of inpatient care in Rutherford County is erroneous.**

At the beginning of 2021, VUMC acquired an interest in the only acute care hospital in Montgomery County, Tennova Healthcare-Clarksville. Thus, VUMC found a hospital to be an attractive investment in a county with a "Discharges-Population per 1,000" rate significantly lower (at 74.48) than Rutherford's (81.29) in 2020. VUMC's actions in Montgomery County show that its assertions in its CON application's "Need Attachment" that the use rate for inpatient acute care services in Rutherford County is being "artificially suppressed" are not true, accurate or effective arguments for demonstrating need for a new hospital in Rutherford County.

The recent CON application CN2109-027 for Tennova Healthcare Clarksville to establish a micro hospital in Montgomery County makes no mention of "artificial suppression of access to inpatient services" occurring in Montgomery County despite a Hospital Discharge Use Rate of 74.48, much lower than Rutherford County's rate as well as much lower than the rates for the other four urban counties listed on p. 284 of the VRH CON application. This CON application for Tennova Healthcare Clarksville does not request any additional hospital beds for Montgomery County, despite Montgomery County's 2020 Hospital Discharge Use Rate of 74.48 discharges per 1,000 population, a ratio much lower than Rutherford County's ratio of 81.29.

On the one hand, VUMC's CON application asserts that Rutherford healthcare providers "artificially suppress" the use rate of inpatient acute care services. On the other hand, VUMC asserts (on CON application p. 7, mailout p. 17) that in its 2021 fiscal year it treated "over 52,000" residents of Rutherford County (approximately 15% of Rutherford County's entire 2020 population) through its existing healthcare system (which does not yet have an inpatient facility in Rutherford County). These claims by VUMC's CON application cast doubt on its assertions that there is "artificial suppression" of the use rate for inpatient acute care services to Rutherford County residents, since so many Rutherford Countians already have ready access to VUMC's numerous physicians and facility services in Rutherford County and elsewhere, as well as to

many other such providers, such as St. Thomas Rutherford Hospital and Stonecrest Medical Center in Rutherford County itself.

In fact, VUMC's 52,000 Rutherford resident patients in 2021 included "over 3,000" inpatients at VUMC, according to the new VRH CON application at p. 6 of Attachment 1Na, "Acute Bed Need Criteria and Standards" (p. 287 of the Vanderbilt Rutherford CON application mailout). VUMC does not indicate in this CON application exactly how many Rutherford resident inpatients it treated in its 2021 fiscal year. (VUMC's 2021 fiscal year ended on June 30, 2021). VUMC did treat 3,582 inpatients from Rutherford County in 2020, so its 2021 Rutherford inpatient volume must be lower than 3,582 – otherwise, it would have identified any 2021 Rutherford inpatient volume increase at VUMC as supporting the approval of this CON application.

Given Vanderbilt's claimed total of 52,000 total Rutherford resident patients in 2021, it is possible to calculate a rough estimate of the "Hospital Discharges – Population per 1,000" ratio for VUMC in 2021, using the process that VUMC uses in its Need Attachment analysis in this CON application to criticize the State Health Plan. Assuming a maximum of 3,582 VUMC Rutherford resident inpatients in FY 2021 by using VUMC's 2020 inpatient patient volume from Rutherford County, out of a total population of 52,000 Vanderbilt patients of every type (the CON application's stated total of VUMC's own 52,000 patient flow to any VUMC facility or physician practice from Rutherford County residents in VUMC's FY 2021), these numbers yield a "Hospital Use Rate" for VUMC's 52,000 Rutherford patients of 68.88 hospital discharges per 1,000 population, a rate significantly lower than Rutherford County's 2020 rate of 81.3 hospital discharges per 1,000 population.

VI. The availability of hundreds of empty VUMC-owned and managed beds in Bedford, Wilson, and Coffee Counties demonstrates the absence of need for Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital.

VUMC fully owns and manages three hospitals outside of Davidson County: Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital in Lebanon, Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital in Bedford County (Shelbyville), and Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton Hospital in Coffee County. The three counties in which the hospitals listed above are all contiguous to Rutherford County. Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital in Bedford County is located less than ten miles from Rutherford County's southern border with Bedford County. This means that many residents of southern and southeastern Rutherford County reside closer to Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital in Bedford County, which is located in the northernmost part of Shelbyville, than to the site for Vanderbilt Rutherford.

Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital's licensed bed occupancy rate in 2020 was only 11.3%. Clearly Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital has plenty of room to serve the residents of southern Rutherford County who reside closer to it than to the proposed site of Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital at I-840 and Veterans Parkway. For example, many residents of the Christiana community in southern Rutherford County live approximately 11 miles from Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital, but are approximately 15 miles from the Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital site (according to MapQuest). Also, Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital has 60 licensed beds, while Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital has asked for only 42 beds.

On indication of how Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital is already serving residents of Rutherford County is provided by the Vanderbilt Rutherford CON application itself, in the affidavit of Dan Brown, M.D., at pp. 130-132 of the application. Dr. Brown states: "I have begun to send my patients to VUMC Shelbyville. They are easy to work with and actually have beds AND STAFF to take care of patients."

If Dr. Brown sends his patients from southern Rutherford County to Vanderbilt Bedford for care, he is actually sending them to a hospital closer to their homes than Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital will be.

The availability of hundreds of VUMC owned and managed hospital beds in Wilson (170 (acute) licensed beds, only 21.8% occupied in 2020), Bedford (60 licensed beds, only 11.3% occupied in 2020), and Coffee (135 licensed beds, only 20.5% occupied in 2020) demonstrate the absence of need for Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital.

VII. Conclusion: Under the Tennessee CON law, there is no need for Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital.

VUMC's criticism of the State Health Plan standards based on this theory of "artificial suppression" of the "use rate of inpatient care services" for Rutherford County residents is simply wrong. VUMC cannot override the application of the State Health Plan's provisions to the VUMC CON application for the Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital as described and set forth on p. 3 of the "Application Review" in this CON application's distribution to the HSDA members. The availability of hundreds of empty VUMC-owned beds in Bedford, Wilson, and Coffee Counties, each of which is contiguous to Rutherford County, demonstrates the absence of need for the VRH project. When the State Health Plan's Bed Need Formula is applied to VUMC's CON application for the establishment of the Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital, that step establishes that the VUMC VRH CON application fails to meet the statutory CON criterion that it must be "necessary to provided needed health care in the area to be served." Because the Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital CON application fails to meet the statutory requirement of "need" (that it must be "necessary to provide needed health care in the area to be served" before it can be granted a CON), VUMC's CON application must be denied.

Representatives of Williamson Medical Center will be present at the December 15, 2021 HSDA meeting to speak and present in opposition to the Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital CON application No. C2109-026.

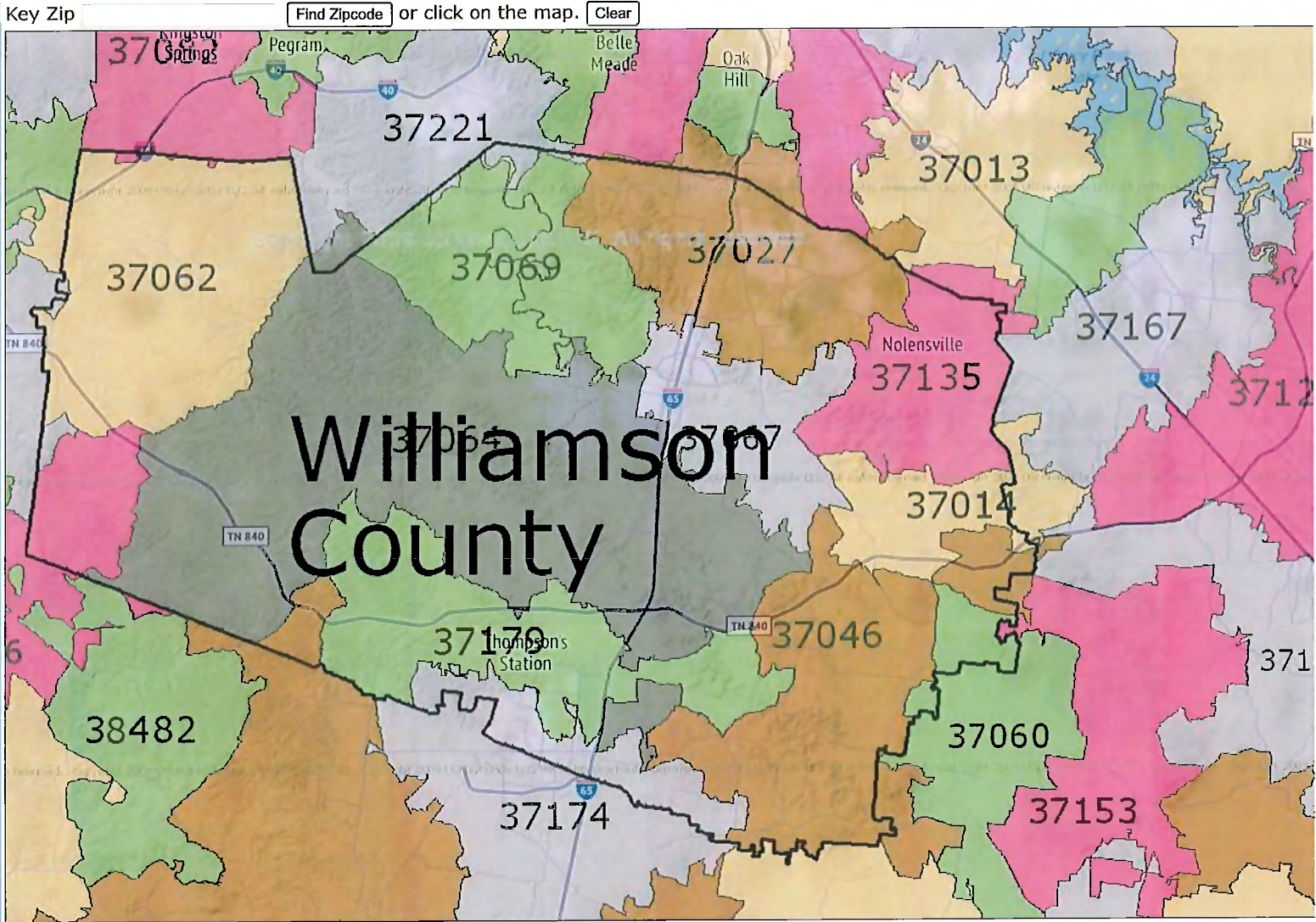
Mr. Logan Grant
November 30, 2021
Page 9

Sincerely,



William West
Attorney for Williamson Medical Center
Baker Donelson
1600 West End Avenue, Suite 2000
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 726-5561

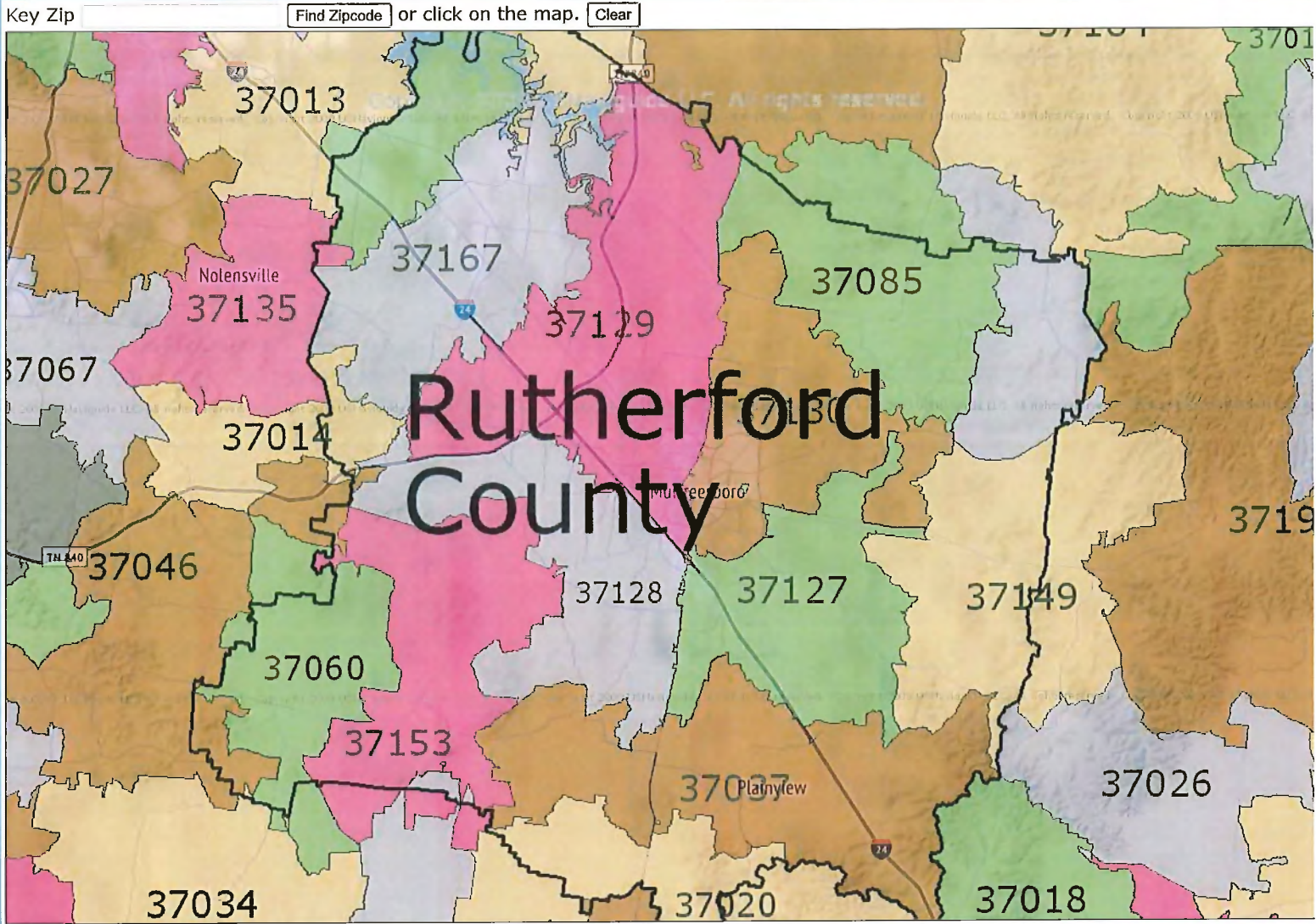
cc: Ginna Felts
Travis Swearingen, Esq.



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novel on Amazon!**

This page shows a map with an overlay of Zip Codes for the US State of Tennessee. Users can easily view the boundaries of each Zip Code and the state as a whole. [CONTACT US](#) [Instructions](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [RadarNow! \(App\)](#)
Williamson County, Tennessee Zip Code Polygon Map Version 4.1 Copyright © 1996-2019 USNaviguide LLC. All rights reserved.

Ex. A



Time on your hands?
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novel on Amazon!

This page shows a map with an overlay of Zip Codes for the US State of Tennessee.
 Users can easily view the boundaries of each Zip Code and the state as a whole.
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Ex. A-1



via email to logan.grant@tn.gov

Mr. Logan Grant
Executive Director
Tennessee Health Services and Development Agency
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Andrew Jackson Building
Nashville, TN 37243-0200

Re: Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (2d Application) - CN2109-026

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am the CEO of Unity Medical Center, located at 481 Interstate Dr, Manchester, TN 37355 (hereinafter "Unity"). Unity is a 49-license bed general medical-surgical acute care hospital in Coffee County, Tennessee. Unity is located less than 35 miles from the proposed new Vanderbilt hospital in Rutherford County and is less than 16 miles from Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton Hospital in Tullahoma, and less than 30 miles from Vanderbilt Bedford Hospital in Shelbyville.

Unity respectfully opposes the Certificate of Need ("CON") application of Vanderbilt University Medical Center ("VUMC") for a new 42-bed hospital proposed to be built in Rutherford County, Tennessee (the Project"). This is VUMC's second attempt to get permission to develop this hospital. The HSDA wisely rejected VMUC's 2020 CON for a 48-bed hospital. I understand that this matter will be heard by the HSDA on December 15, 2021.

The primary reason Unity opposes the Project is because it is not needed. Permitting VUMC to build a new hospital in Rutherford County will not bring greater access to community-hospital services to the area. VUMC is not proposing to bring any services to the area that are not already being provided by hospitals in Rutherford and surrounding counties.

The Department of Health's criteria for approval of a new hospital require all hospitals in the proposed service area to be at 80% occupancy or greater. That is not the case here because TriStar StoneCrest Medical Center ("StoneCrest") is operating at 51.3%. There are many other hospitals in the area that provide community hospital services and those hospitals, like StoneCrest and Unity, are not close to operating at or near the 80% threshold established by the HSDA. The chart below shows all of the community hospitals in rural areas near the proposed new hospital.

Hospital	2020 Licensed Bed Occupancy %
Unity Medical Center Manchester	14.6%
Tennova (now VUMC) Shelbyville	11.3%
Tennova (now VUMC) Tullahoma-Harton	20.5%
VUMC Wilson County Lebanon	21.8%
St. Thomas River Park	23.9%
St. Thomas Highlands	20.3%
St. Thomas Stones River	25.3%
St. Thomas DeKalb	4.6%

The impact of having another community hospital in the area with 42 new beds will not be positive for consumers. Since no new services are being provided, the new VUMC hospital will increase costs for consumers. Currently, Vanderbilt's charges at its rural (and not very full) hospitals are significantly higher than charges at other hospitals in this area. Spending another \$150,000,000 for a new 42-bed hospital will increase the costs that have to be offset by charges to patients.

Therefore, the Project should not be approved by the HSDA. The Project is not necessary to provide needed health care in the area to be served and it will not positively impact consumers. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or need any additional information. My telephone number is (931) 728-6354. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha McCormick". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Martha McCormick
Chief Executive Officer

November 22, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deadrick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

This letter expresses my great concern as it relates to the second attempt by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Rutherford County. Contrary to the extensive public relations campaign that VUMC has put forth to convince the community that this project is needed, and that the facility will enhance the “limited” choices currently available -- is simply untrue.

Cancer care requires an extensive network around it to keep costs manageable for patients. VUMC historically has no presence for affordable cancer care in Rutherford County. In the region, VUMC is one the highest costs for cancer care for consumers. Additionally, as referenced in a Tennessean Op-Ed published <https://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/2021/11/12/how-340-b-drug-discount-benefit-program-can-benefit-tennesseans/6387199001/>, Vanderbilt’s use of 340-B reflects some of the worst business practices in the industry, and its specialty pharmacy billing tactics result in among the highest costs for cancer therapies in the country.

Tennessee Oncology, the largest oncology group in the State of Tennessee with over 190 providers, has served Rutherford County and the surrounding counties for more than 20 years. As a long-standing member of the medical community, we have watched Vanderbilt University Medical Center and its hospital in Lebanon increase costs by charging hospital-based prices reflecting a cost burden on patients, employers, and health insurance plans.

Through our alliance and collaboration Tennessee Oncology will continue to work closely with Ascension Saint Thomas to bring necessary services to patients in the community, which include comprehensive services and expansion plans at the Rutherford campus to meet the community’s needs. Our collaboration has served as the cancer care partner of choice for health insurers including BlueCross Blue Shield to offer value based cancer care, reflecting the goal of enhanced affordability for consumers <https://tnoncology.com/news/2021/10/20/tennessee-oncology-and-blue-cross-blue-shield-of-tennessee-launch-new-value-based-care-initiative/>

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this application once more.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Patton, MD
Chief Executive Officer, OneOncology
Executive Chairman, Tennessee Oncology

Natalie Dickson, MD
President & CMO
Tennessee Oncology



November 29, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026) – Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am the Market President for United Surgical Partners International (USPI). This letter is to express my opposition to the proposed certificate of need for Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) because the hospital is not needed, it would damage existing quality healthcare providers, and it would increase costs to patients and employers.

USPI has cared for nearly 200,000 patients in Rutherford County since 1999 in our Middle Tennessee Ambulatory Surgery Center and Mid-State Endoscopy Center, both of which are located a few minutes from the proposed VRH site. In addition, just last month we opened New Salem Surgery Center, that this agency approved just nine minutes away from the VRH site.

Besides these excellent surgery centers, this Agency granted a certificate of need on June 24, 2020, to USPI and its partners Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance and Ascension Saint Thomas to build Westlawn Surgery Center in Murfreesboro. That facility will be located a mere half-mile from the proposed VRH. Westlawn Surgery Center will be the first of its kind in the market, and there has been a significant investment made in this facility to offer a convenient and cost-effective alternative to hospital-based orthopedic care.

All four of these excellent surgery centers will provide convenient care for patients at a fraction of the hospital-based rates that VRH can be expected to charge. Thus, the addition of VRH to the community will be disadvantageous both to consumers and to employers.

We are proud to be a long-standing partner of Ascension Saint Thomas and Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford. Working closely with both the system and hospital, we have a solid reputation of high quality and lower cost surgical services for Rutherford County consumers of healthcare.

The Health Services Development Agency rejected VUMC's application to build VRH once before. On behalf of the 81 surgeons and proceduralists associated with USPI and our 107 employees working in our surgery centers in Rutherford County, we ask that you deny this application again. VRH will only

duplicate community based medical services and significantly challenge the healthcare operating environment where ample access to physicians and the highest level of surgical care already exists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristen O'Connor
Market President – Tennessee
United Surgical Partners International

CC: Travis Swearingen, Attorney, Butler Snow LLP



Julia M. Boll, MD
Roger A. Bonau, MD
John A. Boskind, MD
Timothy W. Bush, DPM
Tod Bushman, DPM
Mariana Chavez, MD
Mark E. Cooper, MD
Jeffery B. Dattilo, MD
Patrick T. Davis, MD
JimBob Faulk, MD
Bryan T. Fisher, MD
Alex Brent Fruin, MD
Andrew W. Garrett, MD
Robert F. Garza, MD
Richard J. Geer, MD
Trudie A. Goers MD
Bassam N. Helou, MD
Mark S. Hinson, MD
John B. Kendrick, MD
John E. Keyser, III, MD
Billy J. Kim, MD
Allen P. Lee, MD
E. Dwayne Lett, MD
George B. Lynch, MD
Clinton A. Marlar, MD
James G. McDowell, Jr., MD
Willie Melvin III, MD
Chad M. Moss, MD
M. Caroline Nally, MD
Gregory E. Neal, MD
William H. Polk, Jr., MD
Drew H. Reynolds, MD
James W. Richardson Jr., MD
Adam A. Richter, MD
Marc E. Rosen, DO
Joshua T. Taylor MD
K. Tyson Thomas, MD
Craig Ternovits, MD
Todd Wilkens, MD
Patrick S. Wolf, MD
Patrick C. Yu, MD

Chris Stirling, CPA
Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Mr. Grant,

We are filing this letter in opposition to Certificate of Need (CON) Application CN2109-026, in which Vanderbilt University Medical Center proposes building a new 42-bed full-service acute care hospital in Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, Tennessee.

As one of the largest privately-owned physician practices in Tennessee, The Surgical Clinic is physician-owned with 44 surgeons in Middle Tennessee. We specialize in general, vascular, plastic and podiatric surgery, including four surgeons who are primarily located in Smyrna, Rutherford County.

In our opinion, this project fails all three requirements of CON approval, however, we would like to focus on the criteria for orderly development of adequate and effective health services.

The Surgical Clinic has offered general surgery services in Rutherford County for over six years. In that time, through our work with Stonecrest Medical Center we've built a highly-rated level three trauma program, an innovative robotic surgery program and were instrumental in the recent accreditation of Stonecrest Medical Center as a Hernia Surgery Center of Excellence. In addition, Dr. Josh Taylor recently performed the first scar-less thyroidectomy in Tennessee.

Allowing this project to move forward will materially affect the sustainability of our practice in that area. Drs. Willie Melvin, Josh Taylor, Todd Wilkens and Mark Shelton have worked tirelessly to build successful general and vascular surgery programs and this project, if approved, will undermine the high-quality and innovative care for which we've become known in Rutherford County.

I will attend the December 15, 2021 meeting virtually and will be pleased to voice our opposition to the Board at that time if it pleases the Board.

Thank you to the Agency and the Board for accepting this letter.

Respectfully,

Chris Stirling, CPA
CEO, The Surgical Clinic

Administration Office
85 White Bridge Rd., Ste. 200
Nashville, TN 37205
Phone (615) 346-6200
Fax (615) 346-6201

TSCLINIC.COM

November 15, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am writing to express our concern regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to develop Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro.

Premier Radiology is proud to be a partner of Ascension Saint Thomas and Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford for the past 10+ years and has worked collaboratively to develop a system of care in the market that provides outstanding consumer access, convenience and a model of non-hospital outpatient department (HOPD) imaging that lowers the cost of care for patients. In that same regard, I know first-hand that VUMC is one of the most expensive options for inpatient and outpatient imaging in the region.

Premier Radiology has cared for thousands of consumers since entering the market with excellent patient satisfaction. The proposed facility will duplicate imaging services already offered throughout Rutherford County and the region and will undoubtedly raise the cost of healthcare as we compete for healthcare technicians that are in short supply to run our modalities.

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this second attempt at an application. Healthcare options are abundant in the market and patients will not benefit from another community level facility. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Chad L. Calendine, MD
President, Premier Radiology
Chief Executive Officer, AdvancedHEALTH



1 Cameron Hill Circle
Chattanooga, TN 37402

November 30, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Tennessee Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am writing to express my strong concern for the proposed development of Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH), a part of Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC). This project was initially denied by the HSDA (The Agency) in August 2020.

As BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee said in written correspondence to the Agency in August 2020, we do not favor duplication of healthcare services when there is capacity in the County and surrounding region. The second application filed by VUMC now limits itself to Rutherford County, where two other hospitals already exist and a third is in the process of being built, near the proposed VRH hospital. BlueCross BlueShield supported the application of Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford Westlawn based on its inpatient bed neutrality and alignment to a broader system of care in the community.

We have seen how unnecessary duplication of services inflates the cost of care. We also discourage the addition of services in a community when patients are already afforded quality care at reasonable costs.

Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital and Stonecrest Medical Center have built strong legacies of service and expansion of care for the residents of Rutherford County. Neighboring Williamson Medical Center is also close to this proposed VRH facility and has announced a significant expansion of its hospital. All positive progress for consumers at large.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marc Barclay".

Marc Barclay
VP PNC and Chief Managed Care Officer
BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee

November 24, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

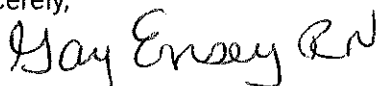
As a long standing RN at Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford, I am sending this letter to express concern regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro. We believe we can, as we have for ninety four years, meet the health care needs of our community and a third full service hospital within a few miles of our facility is not needed.

My employment with Rutherford Hospital began July 7, 1977 and I have never lost confidence in this health care team. Leadership values the front line staff as having the knowledge and expertise to know what was right for our patients. There has been significant investment over the years in our hospital and many additional healthcare options under our name that allows for strong access and more affordable healthcare. VUMC will not provide these same options for patients.

Please consider denying VUMC application to build in our area at this time. As an ASTR employee with many years of service this is my home away from home. VUMC claims it will not be disruptive to existing hospitals but we know that is not the truth. We continue to have the atmosphere that serves all our families, friends, and neighbors regardless of insurance or inability to pay with deep love and concern as a faith based organization that I am extremely glad to be a small part of.

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this second application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Gay Ensey RN BSN
Coordinator of Orthopedic and Neurosurgery



Ascension Saint Thomas

November 26, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

As a member of the medical staff of Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford (ASTR) since 2017, I am sending this letter to express my concerns regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro. We believe we can, as we have for more than 90 years, meet the healthcare needs of our community without the addition of VRH as a fourth acute care facility in Rutherford County.

While VUMC has painted a picture to the community that a new hospital is the solution to healthcare in Rutherford County, I respectfully disagree. I have great confidence in the healthcare team at ASTR or I would not practice at this hospital. The senior leadership team and the medical staff have faced challenges, as many other hospitals have especially in the last two years, but the solution is not more hospitals. This only would create a difficult and more stressed environment in the region that ultimately would drive up the cost of healthcare for consumers.

VUMC also talks in their application about capacity challenges at ASTR and that our plans for expansion are somehow linked to their motivations to build in this market. Again untrue. As a physician specializing in hospitalist care, it is clear ASTR's plans did not formulate overnight. An 8th floor of the hospital has been shelled for some time now and the remaining expansion --- which was well within the right of the hospital to pursue --- serves to add bed capacity thoughtfully to advance new services (higher acuity programs) not offered in the community for patients. The beds VUMC proposes for VRH exist already throughout this market and within close proximity to Rutherford County including other VUMC owned facilities. Duplication is not what is truly needed by this community.

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this application once again. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Galloway, MD
Chief-Elect of Medicine Department Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford
Ascension Medical Group

Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford
1700 Medical Center Parkway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

ascension.org

November 28, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am currently a Neonatology physician at Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford (ASTR). Prior to this, I worked as a neonatologist at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital for many years.

The HSDA committee should be aware of ASTR's singular commitment to provide quality care to its community. ASTR succeeds on every level in providing quality care, especially for our mothers and babies. ASTR is accessible to both our community members and their own chosen physicians. Choosing a physician is a deeply personal process. Our community physicians, including the obstetricians and pediatricians, are local and available. They understand our needs and value their neighbors' well-being and access to care. ASTR provides the quality framework and organizational background for optimal delivery of care and patient outcomes. The hospital supports community physician practices in leadership by offering forums for procedural standardization, data analysis, and opportunity and support for innovation and growth. The administration is active, approachable, and directly involved. I feel that this personalization of quality healthcare can only be delivered in a community setting such as ASTR. Furthermore, I anticipate that adding additional competing facilities would damage our growing population by diluting valuable limited healthcare personnel and resources making overall care for the community decline despite intentions otherwise.

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this second application to preserve and grow excellent resources already in place. I am available as needed for any follow up discussions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Harrelson MD". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Elizabeth Harrelson, MD, MSCI
Medical Director
Pediatrix Neonatology of Rutherford

November 26, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

As a past patient of Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford (ASTR), I'd like to share my support of our local hospital that has been serving our community for more than 90 years. I'm not connected to ASTR in any way other than being a grateful patient who had a hospital stay for the better part of two months.

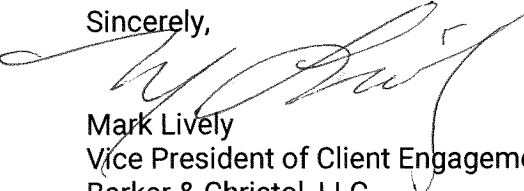
I was admitted to the facility in March 2021 after testing positive for COVID-19. Although I led a very healthy and active lifestyle up until this time, my condition really deteriorated to the point where I was placed on a ventilator. To make matters worse, I developed a hole in my lung and suffered a small stroke. Thanks to the skilled physicians and staff at ASTR, I was discharged from the hospital and went through inpatient rehabilitation and returned home on June 18, 2021. I continue to go through outpatient pulmonary rehabilitation at ASTR which I'm finding very helpful as I complete my recovery from the COVID virus.

Just last week, I returned to ASTR with my devoted wife, Cheryl, as visitors to express our appreciation to the critical care staff and physicians who worked closely with me during my prolonged stay in the hospital. I presented each of them Guardian Angel pins which is a staff recognition program provided through the Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford Foundation.

In sharing my experience with you, I simply don't believe there is a need for another acute care hospital in Rutherford County. ASTR continues to advance care for this community and met all of my physical, emotional and spiritual needs as I almost succumbed to the virus that has most certainly taxed the resources available of all hospitals across the country.

Based on my experience with ASTR, I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this second application submitted by Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Sincerely,



Mark Lively
Vice President of Client Engagement
Barker & Christol, LLC



**Ascension
Saint Thomas Heart**

November 29, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am writing on behalf of our cardiology practice in Murfreesboro, Tennessee to express our concern regarding the certificate of need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro.

Our cardiology practice has been in Murfreesboro for over 15 years starting with two cardiologists in 2006 and having grown to 10 cardiologists this year with plans to hire two more physicians in 2022. This growth has allowed us to meet the needs of our patients and the community at large.

Over the years, we have added advanced electrophysiology, heart failure and imaging to the Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford campus, as part of the Ascension Saint Thomas Heart network. If higher acuity care is needed we have established a robust and seamless relationship with Ascension Saint Thomas Hospital west campus to transfer patients for the care required.

In addition, we were granted a certificate of need in June 2021 to start a cardiac surgery program at Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford. This will allow us to further provide critical care locally so that transfers to Nashville will be significantly reduced except for the most advanced therapeutics. VRH will not offer these advanced services so patients will be transferred which raises the cost of care and hardship on families.

On behalf of my colleagues at Ascension Saint Thomas Heart, I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this second application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Malik'.

M. Fayaz Malik MD FACC CPE MSc
Chairman, Dept. Cardiology
Ascension Saint Thomas Heart Rutherford



**Ascension
Saint Thomas Heart**

November 30, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro.

Our cardiology practice has been in this community for over 15 years starting with two cardiologists in the late 2000s and having grown to 10 cardiologists this year with plans to hire two more in the next year. This growth has allowed us to meet the needs of our community as we add additional services to what is available in Rutherford County. Since our founding, we have added 24/7 percutaneous coronary intervention support, electrophysiology studies with ablation, advanced congestive heart failure support, rotational atherectomy, advanced coronary CT scans and other techniques.

Vanderbilt's proposed hospital offers no new services to Rutherford County but instead only duplication of services for cardiac care that are not at capacity in any major facility in the area.

I humbly request the members of the Health Services and Development Agency deny this second application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Guy B. Mioton, MD
Interventional Cardiologist
Ascension Saint Thomas Heart Rutherford

*Lee M. Moss
1431 Shagbark Trail
Murfreesboro, TN 37130*

November 26, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

As the Past Board Chairman of both the Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford and Ascension Saint Thomas Board of Directors, I am writing to express my concern about the development of Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro. The Health Services and Development Agency (HSDA) denied Vanderbilt University Medical Center's (VUMC) first application back in August 2020 in favor of Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital's application to build a bed-neutral satellite hospital, also called a neighborhood hospital. Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital has served the local community for over 90 years and invested over \$500 million in facility and service developments. This has translated into a strong system of care that continues to innovate, lower the cost of care and offer consumers more affordable options for treatment and care. The satellite facility, which will tentatively open in 2022, will serve as a right-sized, convenient and accessible healthcare option for the community who live and work near the growing area of Veterans Parkway and Westlawn. There is not a need for another hospital one half mile away from Westlawn.

I am a lifetime resident of Middle Tennessee and I have been blessed to call Murfreesboro home for the last 26 years. I personally believe Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford has stepped up admirably to serve Rutherford County. I spent 48 years in the banking industry, the last 26 years as president of banks serving Rutherford and Williamson counties, and I fully understand competition. Delivery of healthcare is different, and you wisely previously rejected Vanderbilt's request, and trust you will remain consistent in not allowing our market to be overserved given the cost of capital dollars and their impact on the cost to consumers for the delivery of healthcare services.

Respectfully,



Lee M. Moss
Past Board Chairman
Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford & Ascension Saint Thomas
Board of Directors

November 17, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

My name is Brad Russell, MD and I serve as the President of Middle Tennessee Emergency Physicians. I am writing to you regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to construct Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro, TN.

I've been practicing emergency medicine for 13 years and I've been on the medical staff at Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital (ASTR) for all of those years. I have also served as Chair of the Patient Safety Council at ASTR for over five years. In August 2020, the Health Services and Development Agency (HSDA) granted ASTR the addition of a satellite facility at Westlawn. The Westlawn project includes eight new ER treatment rooms that will open in 2022. Additionally, we have expanded the main campus ER capacity by 25 rooms in the last year as we faced increasing Covid volumes.

During the last year, VUMC acquired two hospitals in the immediate service area in Bedford and Coffee counties. Although ASTR has a strong working relationship with regional ER physicians and is a closer option for the newly acquired hospitals, VUMC wants patients from those facilities that require transfers to go to Nashville instead of the closest regional facility which is ASTR. This is a disservice to those communities. The proposed VRH will not serve higher acuity patients - they will be transferred out to VUMC costing patients and their families more time and expense. In their application it is clear, VRH will need to take volume from other Rutherford County facilities, as well as other smaller area hospitals, in order to make their projections.

I believe the proposed satellite hospital that was approved by the HSDA will provide the Blackman and Westlawn area the right level of immediate care, and the addition of 14 additional ER treatment rooms proposed at VRH, a mile or two away from Westlawn, is unreasonable and duplicative. Hospitals are working to recover after almost two years of unprecedented challenges. Duplication of ER services and competition for qualified ER staff will only compound hospital recovery efforts and expense.

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Brad Russell, MD
President
Middle TN Emergency Physicians
Murfreesboro, TN

November 15, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am writing to express our concern regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to develop Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro.

Premier Radiology is proud to be a partner of Ascension Saint Thomas and Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford for the past 10+ years and has worked collaboratively to develop a system of care in the market that provides outstanding consumer access, convenience and a model of non-hospital outpatient department (HOPD) imaging that lowers the cost of care for patients. In that same regard, I know first-hand that VUMC is one of the most expensive options for inpatient and outpatient imaging in the region.

Premier Radiology has cared for thousands of consumers since entering the market with excellent patient satisfaction. The proposed facility will duplicate imaging services already offered throughout Rutherford County and the region and will undoubtedly raise the cost of healthcare as we compete for healthcare technicians that are in short supply to run our modalities.

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this second attempt at an application. Healthcare options are abundant in the market and patients will not benefit from another community level facility. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Chad L. Calendine, MD
President, Premier Radiology
Chief Executive Officer, AdvancedHEALTH



**Ascension
Saint Thomas Heart**

November 30, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro.

Our cardiology practice has been in this community for over 15 years starting with two cardiologists in the late 2000s and having grown to 10 cardiologists this year with plans to hire two more in the next year. This growth has allowed us to meet the needs of our community as we add additional services to what is available in Rutherford County. Since our founding, we have added 24/7 percutaneous coronary intervention support, electrophysiology studies with ablation, advanced congestive heart failure support, rotational atherectomy, advanced coronary CT scans and other techniques.

Vanderbilt's proposed hospital offers no new services to Rutherford County but instead only duplication of services for cardiac care that are not at capacity in any major facility in the area.

I humbly request the members of the Health Services and Development Agency deny this second application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward Rhim, MD
Cardiologist
Ascension Saint Thomas Heart Rutherford



**Ascension
Saint Thomas Heart**

November 30, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro.

Our cardiology practice has been in this community for over 15 years starting with two cardiologists in the late 2000s and having grown to 10 cardiologists this year with plans to hire two more in the next year. This growth has allowed us to meet the needs of our community as we add additional services to what is available in Rutherford County. Since our founding, we have added 24/7 percutaneous coronary intervention support, electrophysiology studies with ablation, advanced congestive heart failure support, rotational atherectomy, advanced coronary CT scans and other techniques.

Vanderbilt's proposed hospital offers no new services to Rutherford County but instead only duplication of services for cardiac care are not at capacity in any major facility in the area.

I humbly request the members of the Health Services and Development Agency deny this second application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Robertson, MD
Electrophysiologist
Ascension Saint Thomas Heart Rutherford



Ascension Saint Thomas

November 26, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

As the lead hospitalist of Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford (ASTR), I am sending this letter to express my concern regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro.

I have witnessed first hand how this hospital has grown to meet the needs of its patients in Rutherford County. In particular the hospitalist service has seen tremendous support so that we can continue to offer quality care to our patients. This required a significant investment by the senior leaders of this hospital.

Despite what VUMC has stated in its application, I have great confidence in my colleagues and the staff to manage our patient needs. I also have great confidence in the broader system of care that ASTR has developed throughout the market. It has been thoughtful in design, intent and community need. We are looking forward to the opening of ASTR's newest hospital at Westlawn in 2022 and also the start of the main campus expansion in early 2022. An existing 8th floor of the hospital will be among one of the first areas of focus which will help to support additional development of new programs and services at the hospital.

The hospitals in Rutherford County have well established and progressive services for this market. VUMC only serves to duplicate community hospital resources with no advancement of beds for higher level services. I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this second application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David M. Sellers, MD, MBA
Lead Hospitalist
Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford

Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford
1700 Medical Center Parkway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

November 22, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

This letter expresses my great concern as it relates to the second attempt by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Rutherford County. Contrary to the extensive public relations campaign that VUMC has put forth to convince the community that this project is needed, and that the facility will enhance the "limited" choices currently available -- is simply untrue.

Cancer care requires an extensive network around it to keep costs manageable for patients. VUMC historically has no presence for affordable cancer care in Rutherford County. In the region, VUMC is one of the highest costs for cancer care for consumers. Additionally, as referenced in a Tennessean Op-Ed published <https://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/2021/11/12/how-340-b-drug-discount-benefit-program-can-benefit-tennesseans/6387199001/>, Vanderbilt's use of 340-B reflects some of the worst business practices in the industry, and its specialty pharmacy billing tactics result in among the highest costs for cancer therapies in the country.

Tennessee Oncology, the largest oncology group in the State of Tennessee with over 190 providers, has served Rutherford County and the surrounding counties for more than 20 years. As a long-standing member of the medical community, we have watched Vanderbilt University Medical Center and its hospital in Lebanon increase costs by charging hospital-based prices reflecting a cost burden on patients, employers, and health insurance plans.

Through our alliance and collaboration Tennessee Oncology will continue to work closely with Ascension Saint Thomas to bring necessary services to patients in the community, which include comprehensive services and expansion plans at the Rutherford campus to meet the community's needs. Our collaboration has served as the cancer care partner of choice for health insurers including BlueCross Blue Shield to offer value based cancer care, reflecting the goal of enhanced affordability for consumers <https://tnoncology.com/news/2021/10/20/tennessee-oncology-and-blue-cross-blue-shield-of-tennessee-launch-new-value-based-care-initiative/>

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this application once more.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeff Patton, MD
Chief Executive Officer, OneOncology
Executive Chairman, Tennessee Oncology



Natalie Dickson, MD
President & CMO, Tennessee Oncology

TOA

TENNESSEE ORTHOPAEDIC ALLIANCE

Physicians

Christian N. Anderson, M.D.
Christopher P. Ashley, M.D.
Matthew O. Barrett, M.D.
W. Cooper Beazley, M.D.
Michael C. Bowman, D.O.
S. R. Brown, M.D.
Daniel S. Burrus, M.D.
Lucas J. Burton, M.D.
Daniel J. Burval, M.D.
Michael T. Cain, M.D.
William E. Carpenter, M.D.
Robert E. Clendenin III, M.D.
Phillip G. Coogan, M.D.
W. Chase Corn, M.D.
Paul D. Crook, M.D.
William H. DeVries, M.D.
Keith C. Douglas, M.D.
C. Robinson Dyer, M.D.
W. Blake Garside, Jr., M.D.
Martha P. George, M.D.
R. Edward Glenn, Jr., M.D.
Robert C. Greenberg, M.D.
Paul W. Grutter, M.D.
Jason H. Harms, M.D.
Jeffrey L. Herring, M.D.
Michael R. Jordan, M.D.
Kyle S. Joyner, M.D.
Phillip A. G. Karpos, M.D.
Brian E. Koch, M.D.
Kurtis L. Kowalski, M.D.
William B. Kurtz II, M.D.
Justin W. Langan, M.D.
Bryan W. Lapinski, M.D.
Jeffrey P. Lawrence, M.D.
Robert W. Lowe III, M.D.
Edward S. Mackey, M.D.
J. Bartley McGehee III, M.D.
Russell C. McKissick, M.D.
J. Wills Oglesby, M.D.
Damon H. Petty, M.D.
Daniel L. Phillips, M.D.
S. Matthew Rose, M.D.
Lucas K. Routh, M.D.
James H. Rubright, M.D.
James L. Rungee, M.D.
William A. Shell, Jr., M.D.
Juris Shibayama, M.D.
Jane M. Siegel, M.D.
Stuart E. Smith, M.D.
Ryan D. Snowden, M.D.
S. Tyler Staelin, M.D.
Gray C. Stahlman, M.D.
Timothy J. Steinagle, D.O.
Robert L. Thompson, M.D.
R. David Todd, M.D.
Thomas E. Tompkins, M.D.
Roderick A. Vaughan, M.D.
Justin W. West, MD
Lydia A. White, M.D.
Richard I. Williams, M.D.
Matthew P. Willis, M.D.
James R. Yu, M.D.

November 29, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

My name is Rob Simmons and I serve as the CEO of Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance (TOA). This letter is to express my great concern about the development of Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH).

As you know, the Health Services and Development Agency granted Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance and its partners a Certificate of Need on June 24, 2020 to build Westlawn Surgery Center in Murfreesboro. That facility will be located directly across from the proposed VRH. As a proposed community hospital, VRH is expected to perform orthopedic surgical cases at hospital-based rates. This is a distinct disadvantage to patients who will pay a higher rate for care than accessing a freestanding ambulatory surgery center model. TOA and its partners have made a significant investment in this facility to offer a convenient and cost-effective alternative to hospital-based care.

TOA has served Rutherford County for over 20 years and is proud to be a long-standing partner of Ascension Saint Thomas and Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford. Working closely with both the system and hospital, we have brought needed physicians and higher quality, lower cost orthopedic services to the Rutherford County communities we jointly serve. We also serve in partnership with Stonecrest Medical Center in Rutherford County.

The Health Services and Development Agency rejected VUMC's application to build VRH once before. On behalf of our physicians and employees in Rutherford County, we ask that you deny this application again. VRH will only duplicate community based medical services and significantly challenge the healthcare operating environment where there is already ample access to physicians and the highest level of orthopedic care.

Sincerely,



Rob Simmons
Chief Executive Officer
Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance



November 29, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026) – Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am the Market President for United Surgical Partners International (USPI). This letter is to express my opposition to the proposed certificate of need for Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) because the hospital is not needed, it would damage existing quality healthcare providers, and it would increase costs to patients and employers.

USPI has cared for nearly 200,000 patients in Rutherford County since 1999 in our Middle Tennessee Ambulatory Surgery Center and Mid-State Endoscopy Center, both of which are located a few minutes from the proposed VRH site. In addition, just last month we opened New Salem Surgery Center, that this agency approved just nine minutes away from the VRH site.

Besides these excellent surgery centers, this Agency granted a certificate of need on June 24, 2020, to USPI and its partners Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance and Ascension Saint Thomas to build Westlawn Surgery Center in Murfreesboro. That facility will be located a mere half-mile from the proposed VRH. Westlawn Surgery Center will be the first of its kind in the market, and there has been a significant investment made in this facility to offer a convenient and cost-effective alternative to hospital-based orthopedic care.

All four of these excellent surgery centers will provide convenient care for patients at a fraction of the hospital-based rates that VRH can be expected to charge. Thus, the addition of VRH to the community will be disadvantageous both to consumers and to employers.

We are proud to be a long-standing partner of Ascension Saint Thomas and Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford. Working closely with both the system and hospital, we have a solid reputation of high quality and lower cost surgical services for Rutherford County consumers of healthcare.

The Health Services Development Agency rejected VUMC's application to build VRH once before. On behalf of the 81 surgeons and proceduralists associated with USPI and our 107 employees working in our surgery centers in Rutherford County, we ask that you deny this application again. VRH will only

duplicate community based medical services and significantly challenge the healthcare operating environment where ample access to physicians and the highest level of surgical care already exists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "K" and "O".

Kristen O'Connor
Market President – Tennessee
United Surgical Partners International

CC: Travis Swearingen, Attorney, Butler Snow LLP

November 29, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

Recently, as part of a public relations campaign that Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) has been circulating, I was contacted by email to sign their petition for Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH). I was solicited without my approval. I have never lived in Rutherford County. I have never worked for VUMC and I have never had medical care by VUMC in Rutherford County. I live outside Rutherford County. I am a nurse and have a present and past history with Ascension Saint Thomas.

If the HSDA intends to take this petition under consideration, I would offer that my experience was not appropriate and I can imagine I am not the only one. I also took the time to read the information on their website and question the validity when non-objective and one sided information is presented that persuades people to sign a petition without balanced facts. I have attached the email I received for your review.

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to take my experience into consideration. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Hope Warfel, RN
Williamson County Resident

attachment (1)



We're Making Health Care Personal in Rutherford County

Thank you for trusting us with your family's health care. To serve you closer to home, we've asked the state to approve a Certificate of Need to build 42-bed Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital.

This full-service hospital will offer emergency, surgical and heart catheterization services; enhanced pediatric, obstetrics and ICU care – and [so much more](#).

Our goal is to provide a choice for the thousands of Rutherford County residents who now drive into Nashville to get their care.

We need your help to make it happen. Please let the Health Services and Development Agency know you support health care choice in Rutherford County.

[Learn more and sign an online petition.](#)

Email your message of support to logan.grant@tn.gov with the subject line "In Support of Vanderbilt University Medical Center d/b/a Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital."

Mail a letter of support to:

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243-0200

Re: In Support of Vanderbilt University Medical Center d/b/a Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Thank you for your support and, as always, letting us be a part of your family's care.

Follow Us



Vanderbilt University Medical Center
1211 Medical Center Drive, Nashville, TN 37232

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1 Cameron Hill Circle
Chattanooga, TN 37402

November 30, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Tennessee Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am writing to express my strong concern for the proposed development of Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH), a part of Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC). This project was initially denied by the HSDA (The Agency) in August 2020.

As BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee said in written correspondence to the Agency in August 2020, we do not favor duplication of healthcare services when there is capacity in the County and surrounding region. The second application filed by VUMC now limits itself to Rutherford County, where two other hospitals already exist and a third is in the process of being built, near the proposed VRH hospital. BlueCross BlueShield supported the application of Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford Westlawn based on its inpatient bed neutrality and alignment to a broader system of care in the community.

We have seen how unnecessary duplication of services inflates the cost of care. We also discourage the addition of services in a community when patients are already afforded quality care at reasonable costs.

Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital and Stonecrest Medical Center have built strong legacies of service and expansion of care for the residents of Rutherford County. Neighboring Williamson Medical Center is also close to this proposed VRH facility and has announced a significant expansion of its hospital. All positive progress for consumers at large.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marc Barclay".

Marc Barclay
VP PNC and Chief Managed Care Officer
BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee



November 29, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026) – Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am the Market President for United Surgical Partners International (USPI). This letter is to express my opposition to the proposed certificate of need for Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) because the hospital is not needed, it would damage existing quality healthcare providers, and it would increase costs to patients and employers.

USPI has cared for nearly 200,000 patients in Rutherford County since 1999 in our Middle Tennessee Ambulatory Surgery Center and Mid-State Endoscopy Center, both of which are located a few minutes from the proposed VRH site. In addition, just last month we opened New Salem Surgery Center, that this agency approved just nine minutes away from the VRH site.

Besides these excellent surgery centers, this Agency granted a certificate of need on June 24, 2020, to USPI and its partners Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance and Ascension Saint Thomas to build Westlawn Surgery Center in Murfreesboro. That facility will be located a mere half-mile from the proposed VRH. Westlawn Surgery Center will be the first of its kind in the market, and there has been a significant investment made in this facility to offer a convenient and cost-effective alternative to hospital-based orthopedic care.

All four of these excellent surgery centers will provide convenient care for patients at a fraction of the hospital-based rates that VRH can be expected to charge. Thus, the addition of VRH to the community will be disadvantageous both to consumers and to employers.

We are proud to be a long-standing partner of Ascension Saint Thomas and Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford. Working closely with both the system and hospital, we have a solid reputation of high quality and lower cost surgical services for Rutherford County consumers of healthcare.

The Health Services Development Agency rejected VUMC's application to build VRH once before. On behalf of the 81 surgeons and proceduralists associated with USPI and our 107 employees working in our surgery centers in Rutherford County, we ask that you deny this application again. VRH will only

duplicate community based medical services and significantly challenge the healthcare operating environment where ample access to physicians and the highest level of surgical care already exists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristen O'Connor
Market President – Tennessee
United Surgical Partners International

CC: Travis Swearingen, Attorney, Butler Snow LLP

TOA

TENNESSEE ORTHOPAEDIC ALLIANCE

Physicians

Christian N. Anderson, M.D.
Christopher P. Ashley, M.D.
Matthew O. Barrett, M.D.
W. Cooper Beazley, M.D.
Michael C. Bowman, D.O.
S. R. Brown, M.D.
Daniel S. Burrus, M.D.
Lucas J. Burton, M.D.
Daniel J. Burval, M.D.
Michael T. Cain, M.D.
William E. Carpenter, M.D.
Robert E. Clendenin III, M.D.
Phillip G. Coogan, M.D.
W. Chase Corn, M.D.
Paul D. Crook, M.D.
William H. DeVries, M.D.
Keith C. Douglas, M.D.
C. Robinson Dyer, M.D.
W. Blake Garside, Jr., M.D.
Martha P. George, M.D.
R. Edward Glenn, Jr., M.D.
Robert C. Greenberg, M.D.
Paul W. Grutter, M.D.
Jason H. Harms, M.D.
Jeffrey L. Herring, M.D.
Michael R. Jordan, M.D.
Kyle S. Joyner, M.D.
Phillip A. G. Karpos, M.D.
Brian E. Koch, M.D.
Kurtis L. Kowalski, M.D.
William B. Kurtz II, M.D.
Justin W. Langan, M.D.
Bryan W. Lapinski, M.D.
Jeffrey P. Lawrence, M.D.
Robert W. Lowe III, M.D.
Edward S. Mackey, M.D.
J. Bartley McGehee III, M.D.
Russell C. McKissick, M.D.
J. Wills Oglesby, M.D.
Damon H. Petty, M.D.
Daniel L. Phillips, M.D.
S. Matthew Rose, M.D.
Lucas K. Routh, M.D.
James H. Rubright, M.D.
James L. Rungee, M.D.
William A. Shell, Jr., M.D.
Juris Shibayama, M.D.
Jane M. Siegel, M.D.
Stuart E. Smith, M.D.
Ryan D. Snowden, M.D.
S. Tyler Staelin, M.D.
Gray C. Stahlman, M.D.
Timothy J. Steinagle, D.O.
Robert L. Thompson, M.D.
R. David Todd, M.D.
Thomas E. Tompkins, M.D.
Roderick A. Vaughan, M.D.
Justin W. West, MD
Lydia A. White, M.D.
Richard I. Williams, M.D.
Matthew P. Willis, M.D.
James R. Yu, M.D.

November 29, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

My name is Rob Simmons and I serve as the CEO of Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance (TOA). This letter is to express my great concern about the development of Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH).

As you know, the Health Services and Development Agency granted Tennessee Orthopedic Alliance and its partners a Certificate of Need on June 24, 2020 to build Westlawn Surgery Center in Murfreesboro. That facility will be located directly across from the proposed VRH. As a proposed community hospital, VRH is expected to perform orthopedic surgical cases at hospital-based rates. This is a distinct disadvantage to patients who will pay a higher rate for care than accessing a freestanding ambulatory surgery center model. TOA and its partners have made a significant investment in this facility to offer a convenient and cost-effective alternative to hospital-based care.

TOA has served Rutherford County for over 20 years and is proud to be a long-standing partner of Ascension Saint Thomas and Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford. Working closely with both the system and hospital, we have brought needed physicians and higher quality, lower cost orthopedic services to the Rutherford County communities we jointly serve. We also serve in partnership with Stonecrest Medical Center in Rutherford County.

The Health Services and Development Agency rejected VUMC's application to build VRH once before. On behalf of our physicians and employees in Rutherford County, we ask that you deny this application again. VRH will only duplicate community based medical services and significantly challenge the healthcare operating environment where there is already ample access to physicians and the highest level of orthopedic care.

Sincerely,



Rob Simmons
Chief Executive Officer
Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance

November 22, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

This letter expresses my great concern as it relates to the second attempt by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Rutherford County. Contrary to the extensive public relations campaign that VUMC has put forth to convince the community that this project is needed, and that the facility will enhance the "limited" choices currently available -- is simply untrue.

Cancer care requires an extensive network around it to keep costs manageable for patients. VUMC historically has no presence for affordable cancer care in Rutherford County. In the region, VUMC is one of the highest costs for cancer care for consumers. Additionally, as referenced in a Tennessean Op-Ed published <https://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/2021/11/12/how-340-b-drug-discount-benefit-program-can-benefit-tennesseans/6387199001/>, Vanderbilt's use of 340-B reflects some of the worst business practices in the industry, and its specialty pharmacy billing tactics result in among the highest costs for cancer therapies in the country.

Tennessee Oncology, the largest oncology group in the State of Tennessee with over 190 providers, has served Rutherford County and the surrounding counties for more than 20 years. As a long-standing member of the medical community, we have watched Vanderbilt University Medical Center and its hospital in Lebanon increase costs by charging hospital-based prices reflecting a cost burden on patients, employers, and health insurance plans.

Through our alliance and collaboration Tennessee Oncology will continue to work closely with Ascension Saint Thomas to bring necessary services to patients in the community, which include comprehensive services and expansion plans at the Rutherford campus to meet the community's needs. Our collaboration has served as the cancer care partner of choice for health insurers including BlueCross Blue Shield to offer value based cancer care, reflecting the goal of enhanced affordability for consumers <https://tnoncology.com/news/2021/10/20/tennessee-oncology-and-blue-cross-blue-shield-of-tennessee-launch-new-value-based-care-initiative/>

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this application once more.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeff Patton, MD
Chief Executive Officer, OneOncology
Executive Chairman, Tennessee Oncology



Natalie Dickson, MD
President & CMO, Tennessee Oncology

November 15, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am writing to express our concern regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to develop Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro.

Premier Radiology is proud to be a partner of Ascension Saint Thomas and Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford for the past 10+ years and has worked collaboratively to develop a system of care in the market that provides outstanding consumer access, convenience and a model of non-hospital outpatient department (HOPD) imaging that lowers the cost of care for patients. In that same regard, I know first-hand that VUMC is one of the most expensive options for inpatient and outpatient imaging in the region.

Premier Radiology has cared for thousands of consumers since entering the market with excellent patient satisfaction. The proposed facility will duplicate imaging services already offered throughout Rutherford County and the region and will undoubtedly raise the cost of healthcare as we compete for healthcare technicians that are in short supply to run our modalities.

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this second attempt at an application. Healthcare options are abundant in the market and patients will not benefit from another community level facility. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Chad L. Calendine, MD
President, Premier Radiology
Chief Executive Officer, AdvancedHEALTH

November 17, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

My name is Brad Russell, MD and I serve as the President of Middle Tennessee Emergency Physicians. I am writing to you regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to construct Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro, TN.

I've been practicing emergency medicine for 13 years and I've been on the medical staff at Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital (ASTR) for all of those years. I have also served as Chair of the Patient Safety Council at ASTR for over five years. In August 2020, the Health Services and Development Agency (HSDA) granted ASTR the addition of a satellite facility at Westlawn. The Westlawn project includes eight new ER treatment rooms that will open in 2022. Additionally, we have expanded the main campus ER capacity by 25 rooms in the last year as we faced increasing Covid volumes.

During the last year, VUMC acquired two hospitals in the immediate service area in Bedford and Coffee counties. Although ASTR has a strong working relationship with regional ER physicians and is a closer option for the newly acquired hospitals, VUMC wants patients from those facilities that require transfers to go to Nashville instead of the closest regional facility which is ASTR. This is a disservice to those communities. The proposed VRH will not serve higher acuity patients - they will be transferred out to VUMC costing patients and their families more time and expense. In their application it is clear, VRH will need to take volume from other Rutherford County facilities, as well as other smaller area hospitals, in order to make their projections.

I believe the proposed satellite hospital that was approved by the HSDA will provide the Blackman and Westlawn area the right level of immediate care, and the addition of 14 additional ER treatment rooms proposed at VRH, a mile or two away from Westlawn, is unreasonable and duplicative. Hospitals are working to recover after almost two years of unprecedented challenges. Duplication of ER services and competition for qualified ER staff will only compound hospital recovery efforts and expense.

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BR Russell', written in a cursive style.

Brad Russell, MD
President
Middle TN Emergency Physicians
Murfreesboro, TN



Ascension Saint Thomas

November 26, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

As the lead hospitalist of Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford (ASTR), I am sending this letter to express my concern regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro.

I have witnessed first hand how this hospital has grown to meet the needs of its patients in Rutherford County. In particular the hospitalist service has seen tremendous support so that we can continue to offer quality care to our patients. This required a significant investment by the senior leaders of this hospital.

Despite what VUMC has stated in its application, I have great confidence in my colleagues and the staff to manage our patient needs. I also have great confidence in the broader system of care that ASTR has developed throughout the market. It has been thoughtful in design, intent and community need. We are looking forward to the opening of ASTR's newest hospital at Westlawn in 2022 and also the start of the main campus expansion in early 2022. An existing 8th floor of the hospital will be among one of the first areas of focus which will help to support additional development of new programs and services at the hospital.

The hospitals in Rutherford County have well established and progressive services for this market. VUMC only serves to duplicate community hospital resources with no advancement of beds for higher level services. I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this second application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David M. Sellers, MD, MBA
Lead Hospitalist
Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford

Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford
1700 Medical Center Parkway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

ascension.org



Ascension Saint Thomas

November 26, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

As a member of the medical staff of Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford (ASTR) since 2017, I am sending this letter to express my concerns regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro. We believe we can, as we have for more than 90 years, meet the healthcare needs of our community without the addition of VRH as a fourth acute care facility in Rutherford County.

While VUMC has painted a picture to the community that a new hospital is the solution to healthcare in Rutherford County, I respectfully disagree. I have great confidence in the healthcare team at ASTR or I would not practice at this hospital. The senior leadership team and the medical staff have faced challenges, as many other hospitals have especially in the last two years, but the solution is not more hospitals. This only would create a difficult and more stressed environment in the region that ultimately would drive up the cost of healthcare for consumers.

VUMC also talks in their application about capacity challenges at ASTR and that our plans for expansion are somehow linked to their motivations to build in this market. Again untrue. As a physician specializing in hospitalist care, it is clear ASTR's plans did not formulate overnight. An 8th floor of the hospital has been shelled for some time now and the remaining expansion --- which was well within the right of the hospital to pursue --- serves to add bed capacity thoughtfully to advance new services (higher acuity programs) not offered in the community for patients. The beds VUMC proposes for VRH exist already throughout this market and within close proximity to Rutherford County including other VUMC owned facilities. Duplication is not what is truly needed by this community.

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this application once again. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Galloway, MD
Chief-Elect of Medicine Department Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford
Ascension Medical Group

Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford
1700 Medical Center Parkway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

ascension.org



**Ascension
Saint Thomas Heart**

November 30, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro.

Our cardiology practice has been in this community for over 15 years starting with two cardiologists in the late 2000s and having grown to 10 cardiologists this year with plans to hire two more in the next year. This growth has allowed us to meet the needs of our community as we add additional services to what is available in Rutherford County. Since our founding, we have added 24/7 percutaneous coronary intervention support, electrophysiology studies with ablation, advanced congestive heart failure support, rotational atherectomy, advanced coronary CT scans and other techniques.

Vanderbilt's proposed hospital offers no new services to Rutherford County but instead only duplication of services for cardiac care are not at capacity in any major facility in the area.

I humbly request the members of the Health Services and Development Agency deny this second application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Robertson, MD
Electrophysiologist
Ascension Saint Thomas Heart Rutherford



**Ascension
Saint Thomas Heart**

November 30, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro.

Our cardiology practice has been in this community for over 15 years starting with two cardiologists in the late 2000s and having grown to 10 cardiologists this year with plans to hire two more in the next year. This growth has allowed us to meet the needs of our community as we add additional services to what is available in Rutherford County. Since our founding, we have added 24/7 percutaneous coronary intervention support, electrophysiology studies with ablation, advanced congestive heart failure support, rotational atherectomy, advanced coronary CT scans and other techniques.

Vanderbilt's proposed hospital offers no new services to Rutherford County but instead only duplication of services for cardiac care that are not at capacity in any major facility in the area.

I humbly request the members of the Health Services and Development Agency deny this second application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Guy B. Mioton, MD
Interventional Cardiologist
Ascension Saint Thomas Heart Rutherford



**Ascension
Saint Thomas Heart**

November 29, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am writing on behalf of our cardiology practice in Murfreesboro, Tennessee to express our concern regarding the certificate of need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro.

Our cardiology practice has been in Murfreesboro for over 15 years starting with two cardiologists in 2006 and having grown to 10 cardiologists this year with plans to hire two more physicians in 2022. This growth has allowed us to meet the needs of our patients and the community at large.

Over the years, we have added advanced electrophysiology, heart failure and imaging to the Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford campus, as part of the Ascension Saint Thomas Heart network. If higher acuity care is needed we have established a robust and seamless relationship with Ascension Saint Thomas Hospital west campus to transfer patients for the care required.

In addition, we were granted a certificate of need in June 2021 to start a cardiac surgery program at Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford. This will allow us to further provide critical care locally so that transfers to Nashville will be significantly reduced except for the most advanced therapeutics. VRH will not offer these advanced services so patients will be transferred which raises the cost of care and hardship on families.

On behalf of my colleagues at Ascension Saint Thomas Heart, I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this second application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Malik'.

M. Fayaz Malik MD FACC CPE MSc
Chairman, Dept. Cardiology
Ascension Saint Thomas Heart Rutherford

November 28, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am currently a Neonatology physician at Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford (ASTR). Prior to this, I worked as a neonatologist at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital for many years.

The HSDA committee should be aware of ASTR's singular commitment to provide quality care to its community. ASTR succeeds on every level in providing quality care, especially for our mothers and babies. ASTR is accessible to both our community members and their own chosen physicians. Choosing a physician is a deeply personal process. Our community physicians, including the obstetricians and pediatricians, are local and available. They understand our needs and value their neighbors' well-being and access to care. ASTR provides the quality framework and organizational background for optimal delivery of care and patient outcomes. The hospital supports community physician practices in leadership by offering forums for procedural standardization, data analysis, and opportunity and support for innovation and growth. The administration is active, approachable, and directly involved. I feel that this personalization of quality healthcare can only be delivered in a community setting such as ASTR. Furthermore, I anticipate that adding additional competing facilities would damage our growing population by diluting valuable limited healthcare personnel and resources making overall care for the community decline despite intentions otherwise.

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this second application to preserve and grow excellent resources already in place. I am available as needed for any follow up discussions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Harrelson MD". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Elizabeth Harrelson, MD, MSCI
Medical Director
Pediatrix Neonatology of Rutherford

November 24, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

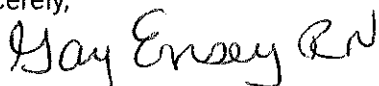
As a long standing RN at Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford, I am sending this letter to express concern regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro. We believe we can, as we have for ninety four years, meet the health care needs of our community and a third full service hospital within a few miles of our facility is not needed.

My employment with Rutherford Hospital began July 7, 1977 and I have never lost confidence in this health care team. Leadership values the front line staff as having the knowledge and expertise to know what was right for our patients. There has been significant investment over the years in our hospital and many additional healthcare options under our name that allows for strong access and more affordable healthcare. VUMC will not provide these same options for patients.

Please consider denying VUMC application to build in our area at this time. As an ASTR employee with many years of service this is my home away from home. VUMC claims it will not be disruptive to existing hospitals but we know that is not the truth. We continue to have the atmosphere that serves all our families, friends, and neighbors regardless of insurance or inability to pay with deep love and concern as a faith based organization that I am extremely glad to be a small part of.

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this second application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Gay Ensey RN BSN
Coordinator of Orthopedic and Neurosurgery

November 26, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

As a past patient of Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford (ASTR), I'd like to share my support of our local hospital that has been serving our community for more than 90 years. I'm not connected to ASTR in any way other than being a grateful patient who had a hospital stay for the better part of two months.

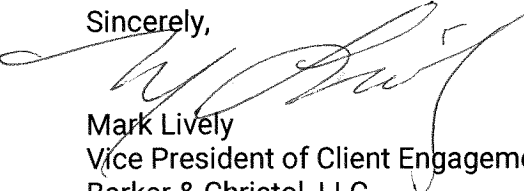
I was admitted to the facility in March 2021 after testing positive for COVID-19. Although I led a very healthy and active lifestyle up until this time, my condition really deteriorated to the point where I was placed on a ventilator. To make matters worse, I developed a hole in my lung and suffered a small stroke. Thanks to the skilled physicians and staff at ASTR, I was discharged from the hospital and went through inpatient rehabilitation and returned home on June 18, 2021. I continue to go through outpatient pulmonary rehabilitation at ASTR which I'm finding very helpful as I complete my recovery from the COVID virus.

Just last week, I returned to ASTR with my devoted wife, Cheryl, as visitors to express our appreciation to the critical care staff and physicians who worked closely with me during my prolonged stay in the hospital. I presented each of them Guardian Angel pins which is a staff recognition program provided through the Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford Foundation.

In sharing my experience with you, I simply don't believe there is a need for another acute care hospital in Rutherford County. ASTR continues to advance care for this community and met all of my physical, emotional and spiritual needs as I almost succumbed to the virus that has most certainly taxed the resources available of all hospitals across the country.

Based on my experience with ASTR, I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to deny this second application submitted by Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Sincerely,



Mark Lively
Vice President of Client Engagement
Barker & Christol, LLC

November 29, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

Recently, as part of a public relations campaign that Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) has been circulating, I was contacted by email to sign their petition for Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH). I was solicited without my approval. I have never lived in Rutherford County. I have never worked for VUMC and I have never had medical care by VUMC in Rutherford County. I live outside Rutherford County. I am a nurse and have a present and past history with Ascension Saint Thomas.

If the HSDA intends to take this petition under consideration, I would offer that my experience was not appropriate and I can imagine I am not the only one. I also took the time to read the information on their website and question the validity when non-objective and one sided information is presented that persuades people to sign a petition without balanced facts. I have attached the email I received for your review.

I urge the members of the Health Services and Development Agency to take my experience into consideration. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Hope Warfel, RN
Williamson County Resident

attachment (1)



We're Making Health Care Personal in Rutherford County

Thank you for trusting us with your family's health care. To serve you closer to home, we've asked the state to approve a Certificate of Need to build 42-bed Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital.

This full-service hospital will offer emergency, surgical and heart catheterization services; enhanced pediatric, obstetrics and ICU care – and [so much more](#).

Our goal is to provide a choice for the thousands of Rutherford County residents who now drive into Nashville to get their care.

We need your help to make it happen. Please let the Health Services and Development Agency know you support health care choice in Rutherford County.

[Learn more and sign an online petition.](#)

Email your message of support to logan.grant@tn.gov with the subject line "In Support of Vanderbilt University Medical Center d/b/a Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital."

Mail a letter of support to:

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243-0200

Re: In Support of Vanderbilt University Medical Center d/b/a Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Thank you for your support and, as always, letting us be a part of your family's care.

Follow Us



Vanderbilt University Medical Center
1211 Medical Center Drive, Nashville, TN 37232

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*Lee M. Moss
1431 Shagbark Trail
Murfreesboro, TN 37130*

November 26, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

As the Past Board Chairman of both the Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford and Ascension Saint Thomas Board of Directors, I am writing to express my concern about the development of Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro. The Health Services and Development Agency (HSDA) denied Vanderbilt University Medical Center's (VUMC) first application back in August 2020 in favor of Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital's application to build a bed-neutral satellite hospital, also called a neighborhood hospital. Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital has served the local community for over 90 years and invested over \$500 million in facility and service developments. This has translated into a strong system of care that continues to innovate, lower the cost of care and offer consumers more affordable options for treatment and care. The satellite facility, which will tentatively open in 2022, will serve as a right-sized, convenient and accessible healthcare option for the community who live and work near the growing area of Veterans Parkway and Westlawn. There is not a need for another hospital one half mile away from Westlawn.

I am a lifetime resident of Middle Tennessee and I have been blessed to call Murfreesboro home for the last 26 years. I personally believe Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford has stepped up admirably to serve Rutherford County. I spent 48 years in the banking industry, the last 26 years as president of banks serving Rutherford and Williamson counties, and I fully understand competition. Delivery of healthcare is different, and you wisely previously rejected Vanderbilt's request, and trust you will remain consistent in not allowing our market to be overserved given the cost of capital dollars and their impact on the cost to consumers for the delivery of healthcare services.

Respectfully,



Lee M. Moss
Past Board Chairman
Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford & Ascension Saint Thomas
Board of Directors



**Ascension
Saint Thomas Heart**

November 30, 2021

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Certificate of Need Application (CN2109-026)- Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Certificate of Need application filed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) to build Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital (VRH) in Murfreesboro.

Our cardiology practice has been in this community for over 15 years starting with two cardiologists in the late 2000s and having grown to 10 cardiologists this year with plans to hire two more in the next year. This growth has allowed us to meet the needs of our community as we add additional services to what is available in Rutherford County. Since our founding, we have added 24/7 percutaneous coronary intervention support, electrophysiology studies with ablation, advanced congestive heart failure support, rotational atherectomy, advanced coronary CT scans and other techniques.

Vanderbilt's proposed hospital offers no new services to Rutherford County but instead only duplication of services for cardiac care that are not at capacity in any major facility in the area.

I humbly request the members of the Health Services and Development Agency deny this second application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward Rhim, MD
Cardiologist
Ascension Saint Thomas Heart Rutherford

From: [Logan Grant](#)
To: [Consuelo Baker](#); [Lowavia Eden-Hoback](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] No to Vanderbilt
Date: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 1:08:02 PM

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency

Begin forwarded message:

From: lee wingate <leewingate@yahoo.com>
Date: November 10, 2021 at 10:33:02 AM CST
To: Logan Grant <Logan.Grant@tn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Vanderbilt

***** This is an EXTERNAL email. Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - STS-Security. *****

Hello,

Why would a caring hospital remove someone with a medical condition from there donor list? This company has no heart when it comes to some people and I do not support them to be in my community.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Consuelo Baker](#)
To: [Consuelo Baker](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Against Vanderbilt Hospital in Rutherford Co.
Date: Monday, November 15, 2021 9:44:20 AM

From: Logan Grant <Logan.Grant@tn.gov>
Sent: Saturday, November 13, 2021 3:29 PM
To: Consuelo Baker <Consuelo.L.Baker@tn.gov>; Lowavia Eden-Hoback <Lowavia.Eden-Hoback@tn.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Against Vanderbilt Hospital in Rutherford Co.

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency

Begin forwarded message:

From: Liz Freeman <lpfree1@hotmail.com>
Date: November 12, 2021 at 7:30:28 PM CST
To: Logan Grant <Logan.Grant@tn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against Vanderbilt Hospital in Rutherford Co.

I am opposed to Vanderbilt Hospital building a hospital in Rutherford Co. Since they are now denying organ transplants to unvaxxed patients, I refuse to support their efforts to build a 42-bed hospital in our county.

I hope you will consider their discriminatory policies before deciding whether or not to approve this move.

Sincerely,
Liz Freeman
Christiana, TN
Rutherford Co.

From: [Consuelo Baker](#)
To: [Consuelo Baker](#)
Subject: FW: OPPOSITION of Vanderbilt University Medical Center d/b/a Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital.
Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 1:11:56 PM
Attachments: [image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[image007.jpg](#)
[image008.jpg](#)

From: Logan Grant <Logan.Grant@tn.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:57 AM
To: Lowavia Eden-Hoback <Lowavia.Eden-Hoback@tn.gov>
Subject: FW: Not In Support of Vanderbilt University Medical Center d/b/a Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital.

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Services and Development Agency
Office: 615-253-1460
Cell: 615-626-4689

From: Phil Huss <phil.huss@wearwell.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 4:18 PM
To: Logan Grant <Logan.Grant@tn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Not In Support of Vanderbilt University Medical Center d/b/a Vanderbilt Rutherford Hospital.

***** This is an EXTERNAL email. Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - STS-Security. *****

Mr Grant,
I was asked to send you a message supporting vandy building a hospital in Rutherford County. Thing is I'd rather they didn't. First I don't think it is needed and second I'd rather not have all the development from the other medical facilities that would be built around it. Thanks

Phil Huss
Product and Engineering Manager
Wearwell
199 Threet Industrial Rd
Smyrna, Tn 37167
<https://www.wearwell.com/24sevenlocksafes>
615.690.5252

Life is not a race, but you see more if you run.



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail



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