



January 31, 2017

An open letter to area residents:

As your elected representatives, we feel the need to speak out on a subject of great interest and concern: Two Certificate of Need applications for a free-standing operating room in Brunswick County.

Important facts:

1. The State Medical Facilities Plan calls for the addition of 0.37 of an operating room in the county, which has been rounded up to one.
2. Two healthcare organizations have applied to build a stand-alone operating room, both in Leland, and both envision these actually offering the equivalent of three operating rooms, i.e., operating room(s) plus procedure room(s).
3. Neither application meets current state statutes to identify patients without access to care/underserved patients and to protect a rural hospital nearby—Dosher Memorial.
4. Both applicants would shift surgical patients away from Southport, thereby affecting the future financial viability of Dosher, the only independent critical access hospital in the state.

This is about the needs of people across the county, not just the needs of the fine people of Leland who already have close access to New Hanover Regional Medical Center about six and a half miles away.

Also regarding travel, Southport residents would have to travel more than 50 miles round trip to either of the proposed sites in Leland, while people in Calabash would face a round trip of more than 90 miles.

We feel that with the equivalent of three operating rooms and up to 23-hour patient stays, approval of either plan would create a de-facto third hospital in the county and that's wholly unnecessary for a county of 116,000 people.

Dosher, with more than 300 employees, 100 members of the medical staff, and 200 volunteers, brings an economic impact of \$125-million to Brunswick County. We are urging the North Carolina Certificate of Need Commission to deny both applications and allow the current hospitals—Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center and Dosher—to continue serving the needs of patients in Brunswick County.

We remain committed to keep Dosher independent, in our community, and providing consistent, high-quality health and wellness services for residents of Smithville Township and beyond.

Sincerely,

Sherri Marshall *Karen Taylor* *Joe Agovino*
Melissa Hinnant *Dr. Scott Starks, MD* *Rev. Jim White* *Dr. Robert Zukoski*

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