

April 8, 2014

The Honorable U.S. Rep. Walter Jones
2333 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515-3307

Dear Rep. Jones,

Today we were informed that the Department of Defense intends to reverse its ruling on how it implements the gradual elimination of Tricare's Sole Community Hospital program so that New Hanover Regional Medical Center is treated the same as all other hospitals in the program.

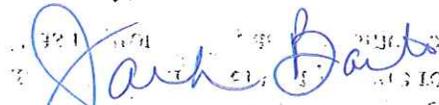
This is fantastic news for our public hospital. The ruling will save us an estimated \$6.3 million this fiscal year alone, and savings will continue into future years. This is money we will be able to invest directly into patient care and community services.

We reached out to your staff to help us make contact with Tricare and DoD and to expedite our appeal. Your staff was responsive, gracious and diligent. We particularly want to thank Ray Celeste, who offered to coordinate our letter to Dr. Jonathan Woodson. You can justifiably feel extremely proud of him and how he responds to constituents in need. Not only did he respond directly to us, but worked across partisan lines with other Congressional offices to coordinate a response - an excellent example of constituent service taking precedence over all other issues.

We cannot thank your team enough for advocating for us and, most of all, our patients on this issue. We truly feel that you are representing this hospital and the patients it serves in Washington, D.C., and we sincerely appreciate it.

Please pass on our gratitude to your excellent staff. We look forward to working with you on future issues impacting this region.

Sincerely,



Jack Barto

President and CEO

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