

Michael & Mary Beth Allen

September 30, 2016

Southwest Virginia Health Authority  
851 French Moore Jr. Blvd., Suite 178  
Abingdon, VA 24210

Dear members of the health authority:

Southwest Virginia has had a proud history of delivering excellent health care to patients, and I am excited the proposed merger of Wellmont Health System and Mountain States Health Alliance offers the opportunity to build on that tradition.

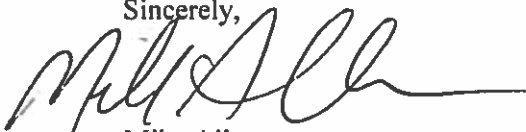
I am fortunate to serve Wise County as a businessman in a local insurance office and also pleased to assist the community by serving as chairman of the board of directors for Lonesome Pine Hospital and Mountain View Regional Medical Center. This is a continuation of my family's connection to Lonesome Pine, with my father previously serving on the hospital board and as a member of the Lonesome Pine Hospital Community Fund.

Our family is invested in the health and well-being of Southwest Virginia and understands the many health issues facing our region. In recent community presentations, Wellmont and Mountain States have described in detail what still needs to be addressed in our area, including premature deaths from diabetes, cancer and heart disease; access to community-based mental health treatment; and neonatal abstinence syndrome. These are major issues, and Wellmont and Mountain States are committed to addressing them so we can improve the health status of Southwest Virginia.

In examining the proposal, the two health systems have developed, I see the foundation for a strong future in the region should the cooperative agreement be approved. We would continue to have local governance, and all hospitals will remain operational as clinical and health care institutions for at least five years. As a combined organization, Wellmont and Mountain States might repurpose some current facilities to develop and enhance access to needed services.

Mountain States and Wellmont are committed to investing savings achieved through the merger to bolster community health, enhance health care services, improve health care value and expand health research and graduate medical education. They are proposing to transform health care in our region, and that is extremely impressive. I encourage you to support the cooperative agreement and the proposed merger.

Sincerely,



Mike Allen