



# Norton Redevelopment & Housing Authority

200 SIXTH STREET, N.W.

NORTON, VIRGINIA 24273-1989

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September 22, 2016

The Honorable Terry Kilgore, Chairman  
Southwest Virginia Health Authority  
851 French Moore Jr. Boulevard, Suite 178  
Abingdon, VA 24210

Dear Sir:

The Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA) located in the City of Norton, Virginia has been providing low income families affordable, sanitary, and safe housing for over 58 years. We employ 10 full time employees and they are provided full medical coverage at no cost to them.

Although NRHA provides full medical coverage at no cost to the employee, I still see my employees struggle with high medical cost, and finding specialized care in our area. The residents we serve live on fixed incomes and also struggle with the same issues. The merger of Wellmont Health System and Mountain States Health Alliance will help alleviate some of these issues for my employees and residents.

Wellmont Health System and Mountain States Health Alliance are prepared to make a series of important commitments and transformational investments in six key areas. They will be improving community health, enhancing health care services, expanding access and choice, improving health care value, expanding health research and graduate medical education, and will be attracting and retaining a strong workforce.

On behalf of the NRHA I support this merger. Our region is a region to be proud of and I care deeply for it. The Commonwealth's active supervision will insure the health and economic wellbeing of the region, by making sure our region has affordable healthcare with combined resources that will make our region a healthier place to live.

Sincerely,

John E. Black  
Executive Director