
EMORY & HENRY COLLEGE



September 30, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Kilgore,

I am submitting this letter to express my support for the merger of Wellmont and Mountain States into a single health system. I believe this merger is good for Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee for a number of reasons. I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve on the steering committee for the Research and Academics work group that was established by the Wellmont and Mountain States systems. As a member of this group, I participated in the development of Ballard Health's (Newco at that time) ten (10) year comprehensive community health improvement plan. I am very pleased and impressed with Ballard Health's plan to partner with regional colleges and universities to strengthen the pipeline and preparation of health professionals in the region. I am also pleased with their plans to invest in academic and research opportunities that will focus on key health issues in this region (i.e., obesity, diabetes, mental health, substance abuse). I firmly believe that both of these initiatives will have a very positive impact on the access to and the delivery of quality health care in this region.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for public comment for this extremely important issue pertaining to the healthcare of the citizens in this region of Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lou Fincher".

Lou Fincher, EdD, ATC
Dean, School of Health Sciences

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