

# TOWN OF HAYSI

## Mayor

Larry D. Yates



## Council Members

Wm. "Billy" Counts  
Michael Harris  
Tim Wallace  
Barry Whitt  
Rocky Wood  
Susan Tiller

September 23, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Kilgore,

Since the 2015 announcement of the proposed merger between Wellmont Health Systems and Mountain States Health Alliance I have followed the process with interest in local media.

Being a member of the Baby Boomer generation I have personally witnessed many changes in how health care is excessed and administered. I've viewed and experienced its effectiveness or lack thereof and how the costs associated have spiraled higher and higher. Having a career that spans both the private and public sector I know the struggles of business owners as well as government agencies who help fund their employee's health care.

As you are aware I've been honored to serve as Mayor of the Town of Haysi now for over eight years. Being able to offer health care to our full time employees is something our town has always put at a high priority. While we only employ three full time staff members I've saw in those eight years co-workers face life threatening diseases, disabling chronic health conditions and many other health related issues.

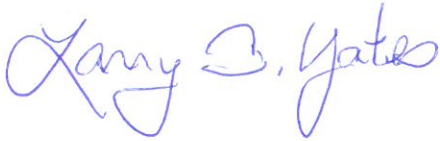
I believe our region faces many of the same issues as other parts of the world but also that we have a unique set of needs. Many of those unique needs stem from our work or way of life and heritage. Others needs stem from our geography or other factors.

I believe by merging or integrating Wellmont Health System and Mountain States Health Alliance many of the needs can be met. Connecting the two systems would allow for better access and expanded choices for the public. It would enable the merged system to attract and retain the best physicians, providers, managers and other support staff. With one consolidated system a common information technology platform could be implemented allowing for a regional exchange of health information, a connection between all regional hospitals, physicians and caregivers. I believe that alone would reduce cost and provide more convenient effective care for patients.

Combining the two existing systems into one allows for dual, Virginia and Tennessee state oversight. That level of accountability should bring our region a health care system that will be cost efficient and provide high quality health care for years to come.

Thank you and all others for your service to this region.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry D. Yates". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" and "Y".

Larry D. Yates