



9/19/16

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

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to you as Owner and President Wolf Hills Fabricators in reference to the merger of Wellmont and Mountain States Health Systems. I am a private citizen who lives, in Southwest, VA and purchases health coverage for 50 employees and their dependents. Like many people in the region my family and I have been served by both health systems over the past several years. From a personal and business standpoint I strongly support the merger of the two entities.

During the past decade our annual insurance premiums have climbed higher each and every year. Unfortunately, we have been required to pass along a large share of these increases to our employees to keep ourselves in business. We live in a rural area where education is often limited leading to high occurrences of obesity, diabetes, smoking, overall poor diet and drug use by many members of society. Our region requires strong, local health providers that can meet our local community needs. We can't allow our rural health systems to become financial unstable causing people to leave the area to find healthcare services. Many people already travel long distances for routine care and extensively for more complicated issues.

With Commonwealth oversight the combined health systems will integrate patient care, focus on specific needs of the community while keeping jobs in our region and remaining financially viable in the fast-changing health care industry. I urge you to support the merger and support the long term health of our region.

Sincerely

Eric Miller  
President  
276-623-2783