

April 2, 2009

As physicians who have served in medical staff leadership positions at Prince William Hospital over the years, we care deeply about the continued delivery of quality healthcare to the community. That is why we want to express our wholehearted support for the Prince William Health System Board of Trustees and its decision to partner with Novant Health to help PWHS expand and enhance its services.

Since 1964, residents of this area have been able to depend on PWHS for the highest quality care. Today, however, healthcare is changing in ways that create great financial pressures on independent hospitals like Prince William. Reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid are shrinking, while the cost of life-saving new medical technologies is soaring. To keep PWHS on the leading edge, we believe the Board has been wise to seek partnership with a larger, financially strong nonprofit health system.

We as a group have overseen tremendous growth in the services and quality of medicine provided by PWHS. With the direct input and involvement of the medical staff, Prince William has made great strides in quality, including improvements to the Emergency Department, the addition of the new surgical and cancer centers, and the opening of the Heathcote and Marblestone outpatient facilities. These and other improvements have been overseen by the Quality Committee of the Board, with the active involvement of the medical staff.

We want to see PWHS continue along this path of continuous quality improvement, and we believe that can only be accomplished with a financially strong partner at our side. Novant, a nonprofit health system widely regarded for its commitment to quality, has pledged to infuse \$200 million in capital into our community to help PWHS continue to raise the bar on quality. PWHS will be able to update aging facilities, add more sophisticated services like cardiac catheterization, recruit more physicians in specialties our community needs, and build a new hospital in the Haymarket area to serve the rapidly growing population in the western county.

All of us have been proud to play a part in the distinguished history of this institution. We have great confidence that with the financial strength and the quality commitment that Novant brings to this partnership, Prince William Health System will have an even brighter future and continue to be a source of pride for our community.

Sincerely,

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