 Healthcare South,p.c.

March, 2024

***Cohasset Family Practice***

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This letter is in support of the proposed expansion of Weymouth Endoscopy from their current three rooms to a proposed six rooms.

Healthcare South is a large Primary Care Practice with nine office locations, 30 Physicians, 15 Nurse Practitioners and over 10,000 covered lives. We work closely with the providers at Weymouth Endoscopy to provide GI care for our patients, including endoscopic evaluations such as colonoscopy and upper endoscopy. Historically, there has been a large unmet need for colonoscopy and upper endoscopy in our region.

These numbers have slowly worsened over the years and at this point our providers send orders for numerous endoscopic evaluations each month and Weymouth Endoscopy is only able to provide access for a handful of these evaluations each month. We do our best to meet these needs with other providers with limited success.

Of particular importance, we have been unable to meet our colonoscopy needs for colon cancer screening. This has persisted despite programs that take advantage of colon cancer screening using stool-based testing. Consequently, there continues to be a typical wait of over 4-5 months for a screening colonoscopy.

We look forward to increased endoscopy and GI access for our patients and are happy to provide additional information if needed.

Respectfully submitted,

[signature on file]

Steven T. Golden, MD President and Medical Director Healthcare South P.C.

**South Shore Health**

Center for Wound Healing 90 Libbey Industrial Parkway Suite 100

Weymouth, MA 02189

781-624-4950

Kingston

5 Tarkiln Road

Kingston, MA 02364

781-585-2200

Norwell

143 Longwater Drive

Norwell, **MA** 02061

781-878-5200

Quincy

1495 Hancock Street

Quincy, MA 02169

781-878-5200

Specialty Clinics

2 Pond Park Road Hingham, MA02043 781-624-6200

Ambulatory Care Division

South Shore Urology 780 Main Street

Weymouth, MA 02189

781-331-4600

The Women's Center 118 Long Pond Road Suite 200

Plymouth, MA 02360

781-682-8000

The Women's Center 1495 Hancock Street

Quincy, **MA** 02169

781-878-5200

The Women's Center 51 Performance Drive

Weymouth, MA 02189

781-682-8000

The Women's Center 689 Bedford Street

Whitman, MA 02382

781-682-8000

March 5, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in support of the proposed expansion of Weymouth Endoscopy from their current three endoscopic procedure rooms to a proposed six endoscopic procedure room center. This increase in service capacity is much needed.

South Shore Medical Center has a large primary care practice with approximately 60,000 covered lives across our primary care offices in Quincy, Norwell and Kingston; of which approximately 4,000 are Medicaid patients. We work closely with the providers at Weymouth Endoscopy to provide gastrointestinal care for our patients, including endoscopic evaluations such as colonoscopy and upper endoscopy. Historically there has been a large unmet need for colonoscopy and upper endoscopy in our region resulting in a significant wait to have these procedures performed. The patient wait times for endoscopic procedures has worsened over the years and at this point our providers refer patients for approximately 550 endoscopic evaluations each month and Weymouth Endoscopy is only able to provide access for approximately 300 of these evaluations each month. We have endeavored to meet our patient needs with other providers with limited success.

Of particular importance, we have been unable to meet our colonoscopy needs for colon cancer screening. This has persisted despite working with the providers at Weymouth Endoscopy to develop programs that take advantage of alternate colon cancer screening using stool-based testing. Consequently, there continues to be a typical wait of 4-5months for a screening colonoscopy.

We look forward increased endoscopy and gastrointestinal appointment access for our patients and are happy to provide additional information if needed.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Amara Mulder, MD

Chief of Family Medicine and Internal Medicine South Shore Medical Center

[signature on file]

Linda L. Oliver, PA-C/MPH 1

Interim Vice President, Ambulatory Operations South Shore Health

[signature on file]

Allen L. Smith, MD, MS President & CEO

South Shore Health

Not-for-profit, tax-exempt, charitable health system serving the people of Southeastern Massachusetts.