



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR THOMAS M. MCGEE

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Tuesday, March 07, 2017

Chairman
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

WAYS AND MEANS

GLOBAL WARMING AND
CLIMATE CHANGE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES
AND AGRICULTURE

Nora Mann Esq., Program Director
Determination of Need Program
Department of Public Health 250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Re: North Shore Medical Center Request for Approval of Significant Amendment to
Determination of Need Project #6-3C46

Dear Attorney Mann,

We are writing at this time with concerns for North Shore Medical Center's (NSMC) request for approval to amend their Determination of Need (DoN) Project #6-3C46. The service consolidation for NSMC as approved by the Public Health Council in July 2016 will leave the City of Lynn as one of the largest cities in Massachusetts without a full service hospital. As stated in previously submitted letters and public comment, it is our responsibility to prevent substantial negative impacts to quality and access of medical care that our constituents, and the citizens of the entire region, depend on.

Through the DoN and Essential Services process last year, NSMC assured the community that the health care needs of the service area would continue to be met, in part, because it would be expanding and upgrading the Salem Campus including an increase of medical/surgical and psychiatric beds. We are troubled by the reduced scale of that project proposed in the amendment. It is our objective to ensure that these changes do not result in inadequate bed capacity for both departments, leading to longer wait times in the Emergency Department, patients being transferred to higher-cost facilities, and interrupting continuity of care.

We ask that NSMC is data-driven and transparent about their reasons for proposed changes and actions to ensure that the community has access to the services they need on the North Shore going forward. It is also important that NSMC continues to have robust public engagement on issues pertaining to essential services, the workforce, and transportation.

We appreciate your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly with any further questions on this matter.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. McGee
State Senator
Third Essex



Bradley H. Jones, Jr.
State Representative
Twentieth Middlesex



Lori A. Ehrlich
State Representative
Eighth Essex



Donald H. Wong
State Representative
Ninth Essex



RoseLee Vincent
State Representative
Sixteenth Suffolk



Brendan P. Crighton
State Representative
Eleventh Essex



Daniel F. Cahill
State Representative
Tenth Essex