



COUNTY OF ROCKLAND  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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C. SCOTT VANDERHOEF  
County Executive

December 15, 2008

Hon. Heather Howard, Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services  
Health & Agriculture Building  
John Fitch Plaza  
P.O. Box 360  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0360

Re: Supporting Certificate of Need for Hackensack University Medical Center

Dear Commissioner Howard:

I am writing to support the efforts to re-establish a full service acute care community hospital in Westwood (formally Pascack Valley Hospital). As I understand it Hackensack University Medical Center intends to open and operate a full service 128-bed hospital, which will be known as HUMC North.

As you are aware Pascack Valley Hospital did not close because of a lack of community need for a hospital, but rather as a result of bankruptcy. Many residents in Rockland County especially in our southern communities benefited from the services provided at Pascack Valley in addition to the fine health services offered at our two other resident hospitals.

It is important that residents in the surrounding Bergen and Rockland communities be afforded accessible quality health care. Indeed I am aware that many have expressed themselves in petitions and letters of support. It seems important also that the re-establishment of this down sized hospital is also being proposed on the financial sound footing as a privately financed joint venture and not with public financing.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to consider favorably the requested transfer of the Certificate of Need, to allow this medical facility to be re-established.

Sincerely,

  
C. Scott Vanderhoef  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE