

May 19, 2015

The Honorable Rick Scott
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Room PL05
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

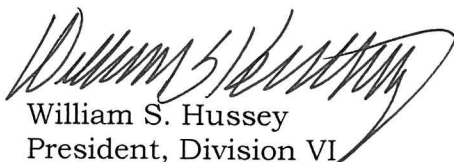
Dear Governor Scott,

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to your request for information the Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding can consider in their work to find alternatives to Low Income Pool Funding. The 26 Florida hospitals affiliated with Community Health Systems work every day to provide quality care, improve access to services, and create integrated networks to serve residents across the state.

Our affiliated hospitals are committed to serving the health of their communities within the walls of their hospitals and beyond. Collectively they employ approximately 18,000 individuals who provide and support the care offered in their facilities. In 2013, the most recent year for ACHA-reported data, these hospitals provided more than \$681 million in charity care and uncompensated medically necessary emergency care for patients who were unable to pay. As taxpaying entities, we take seriously our obligation to the state and our local communities. All 26 affiliated hospitals are responsible for paying property and sales taxes that pay for services and infrastructure locally and across the state, which totaled more than \$31 million in 2014. Finally, these hospitals give donations and sponsorships to numerous charitable organizations, many of which are supported by employees through countless volunteer hours.

We support the goal of the Commission to ensure those who need care receive it. We are committed to operating efficiently so that the resources of our hospital are focused on the health needs of our patients. Please let me know if our affiliated hospitals or I can be of further assistance to you and the Commission as you seek to improve access to healthcare for our most vulnerable populations.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William S. Hussey".

William S. Hussey
President, Division VI

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