Subject:  Letter of Support - Application for Sole Community Hospital Status by Enloe Medical Center

Department:  Board of Supervisors - District 2  
Meeting Date Requested:  June 25, 2019

Contact:  Brian Ring  
Phone:  530.552.3311  
Regular Agenda  
Consent Agenda

Department Summary:  (Information provided in this section will be included on the agenda. Attach explanatory memorandum and other background as necessary).

At the request of Supervisor Lucero, a letter of support for Enloe Medical Center’s application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, for approval of Sole Community Hospital status. More Medicare patients are now being treated at Enloe Medical Center due to the loss of Feather River Hospital in Paradise and other care facilities in the region. Obtaining such status would help keep Enloe Medical Center financially viable through certain payment enhancements and protections.

Fiscal Impact:

None

Personnel Impact:

None

Action Requested:

Approve letter and authorize the Chair to sign.

Administrative Office Review:  Brian Ring, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
June 25, 2019

Chairperson
Provider Reimbursement Review Board
1508 Woodlawn Drive Suite 100
Baltimore, MD 212207

Re: Enloe Medical Center – Application for Sole Community Hospital Status

Dear Chairperson:

We are writing to ask for your support of Enloe Medical Center’s application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for approval of Sole Community Hospital (SCH) status.

The Camp Fire was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California state history. It burned 153,336 acres, killing 85 individuals and destroying 18,804 structures. Included in this destruction was over a third of the area’s health care infrastructure—including an acute care hospital, nursing homes, assisted living centers, physician offices, pharmacies and many other services. Enloe has absorbed significantly increased patient volumes to provide desperately needed medical services to Camp Fire evacuees and the broader region. The increased volumes result in Enloe experiencing considerable financial losses. This situation is expected to continue for many years, and absent any relief to Enloe Medical Center, puts our community at serious risk.

Based on the Provider Reimbursement Manual, we believe that the conditions justify using geographic boundaries established by the statewide health planning agency or documented data from our State hospital association, rather than an arbitrary selection of zip codes.

Due to the significant losses experienced by Enloe Medical Center since the Camp Fire, and the growth of responsibility Enloe has taken on because of the extraordinary loss of healthcare infrastructure in the region, federal assistance is critically needed to ensure we can continue to meet the needs of our rural population.

Our community depends on Enloe and Enloe is depending on you for your support. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact Brian Ring, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer at 530.552.3311.
Sincerely,

Steve Lambert, Chair
Butte County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Butte County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Doug LaMalfa, Member, United States Congress
The Honorable Jim Gallagher, Member, California State Assembly
The Honorable Jim Nielsen, Member, California State Senate
Provider Audit Appeals Coordinator, Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC
Mike Wiltermood, CEO Enloe Medical Center
Paul Yoder, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc.
Rural County Representatives of California