



FLORIDA HOSPITAL WATERMAN

Dear Friend of Florida Hospital Waterman,

At a recent meeting of the Lake County Legislative Delegation, Representative Larry Metz proposed a bill that would dissolve the North Lake County Hospital District -- which helps fund care for documented financially needy patients at Leesburg Regional Medical Center, Florida Hospital Waterman and Lifestream Behavioral Center -- and create a new North Lake County Indigent Healthcare District.

The proposed bill would significantly disrupt the tax support that helps offset the cost of providing medical care to your community neighbors and friends, our patients, who are financially challenged because of lost jobs, low paying jobs and unaffordable insurance.

Although 100% of the Hospital District funds FHW receives are used to provide healthcare to the financially challenged in our community, the North Lake County Tax District proceeds have never met the cost of providing that care -- leaving most of the cost with the hospital. It is the mission of Florida Hospital Waterman to care for everyone in our community, regardless of their ability to pay. However, if we lose this funding in the face of decreasing Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements, it will limit everyone's local healthcare options at a time when our community needs local healthcare access now more than ever.

Let our local legislators know that you don't want to see the support for care to those in our community to be compromised or harmed. Please complete and return the attached petition and encourage your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to sign. The return information is listed on the enclosed petition.

The signed forms will be presented to the Lake County Legislative Delegation on Wednesday, November 9 at the public workshop scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Lake County Commission Chambers at the Round Courthouse in Tavares.

Thank you in advance for your help in protecting the availability of quality health care in our community! If you have questions, or would like to further discuss this vital support, please feel free to call me at 352-253-3300.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Mattison
President

We petition the Lake County Legislative Delegation to

Preserve the North Lake County Hospital District

Representative Larry Metz has proposed a bill that would dissolve the existing North Lake County Hospital District and attempt to create a new North Lake County Indigent Healthcare District – which could possibly leave our hospitals with no support at all. Amendments can be made to the current legislation, without a referendum, to protect our hospitals and still provide accountability, transparency and flexibility.

The proposed bill would significantly disrupt the tax support that helps offset the cost of providing medical care to our neighbors who are financially challenged because of lost jobs, low paying jobs and unaffordable insurance. This support goes to our local hospitals and community mental health center who provide the care to our friends and neighbors.

Without this tax support, health care costs will go up for everyone else. The care for those who cannot afford to pay has to be covered somehow. Not only will the health status of our communities be at risk, the economic impact on Lake County will be substantial if this funding is lost or reduced.

The current system can be improved but it can be done within the existing structure of the current law that established the tax district.

We, the undersigned, call upon the Lake County Legislative Delegation to preserve the existing North Lake County Hospital District and its ad valorem taxation power through its elected Board.

	Printed Name	Address	Signature
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Please mail or fax this petition by November 1, 2011 to:

Leesburg Regional Medical Center

Community Services
609 West Dixie Avenue
Leesburg, FL 34748
Fax: 352.323.5539

OR

Florida Hospital Waterman

Community Services
1000 Waterman Way
Tavares, FL 32778
Fax: 352.253.3927

You are also encouraged to call or email our local delegation with your concern about Representative Metz's proposed bill:

Representative Charles Van Zant
386.312.2272
Charles.Vanzant@myfloridahouse.gov

Senator Paula Dockery
863.413.2900
Dockery.Paula.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Alan Hays
352.742.6441
Hays.Alan.web@flsenate.gov

Representative Larry Metz
352.742.6275
Larry.Metz@myfloridahouse.gov

Representative Marlene O'Toole
352.315.4445
Marlene.Otoole@myfloridahouse.gov

Representative Stephen Precourt
407.355.5784
Steve.Precourt@myfloridahouse.gov