

DR. Lee

We have been asked to monitor and evaluate your research study on hospital costs. We appreciate your willingness to devote your time and expertise to this complex issue. I have pulled together a small team of research economists and applied statisticians some of which have expertise in the Health care fields to help us with the review.

Our initial examination of the tables you provided the commission identified key information that is typically provided in a well-structured research design that was not provided in your presentation. This information would greatly enhance our ability to provide constructive input into your work. This information includes:

- **Abstract.** Your statement of the research problem that is being studied, a description of the selection process you used for choosing the dependent and independent variables and their expected relationship in the study, a description of the research design, a summary of major findings, limitations and conclusions.
- **Review of the literature.** A summary of your literature review, indicating whether your approach, findings and conclusions are consistent with similar professional published studies in this area of research.
- **Definitions** – Clear definitions of each of the dependent and independent variables used in the study. Most important is a clear definition of what you defined as a “government” hospital and which hospitals were identified as government hospitals in the study.
- **Method** – A descriptions of your sample with sufficient detail so that it is clear what population(s) the sample represents. A discussion of how the sample was formed is needed for reliability and understanding the analysis.
- **Design** - The design of the study indicating how groups were formed, what control mechanisms were employed, etc. The description needs to be in enough detail for the reader to replicate the essential elements of the study.
- **Results** - Summary of key findings describing techniques used and the results of each analysis. Please include the diagnostics measures for the overall equations and the reliability measures for the explanatory variables. Did the diagnostics statistics such as multicollinearity and heteroskedasticity introduce bias into your findings. What is the confidence level you place on your results? Description of any complications, such as protocol violations and missing data, anomalies, such as outliers, points of high influence, miscoded data, and illogical responses.