

September 24, 2015

Governor Haley,

I am a board certified general surgeon at Williamsburg Regional Hospital, which is a critical access hospital in Kingstree, SC. Dr. Troy Gamble is the CMO and Sharon Poston is the CEO, who I believe you have met before and have a strong passion in providing quality health care to the citizens of Williamsburg County. I am the only general surgeon in the physician practice taking over for a recently retired general surgeon who retired earlier this year. The practice is established in an office building right next to the hospital, providing much needed medical care in the underserved population of Williamsburg County. My patient population is inpatients and outpatients with common surgical diseases and other medical diseases. Also, I am the only physician that sees patients in the wound care clinic, which is an outpatient clinic established within the hospital itself. We are planning on setting up free ultrasound screenings for the citizens of Williamsburg County as well as visits to the local prison to provide medical/surgical care for the inmates who need it.

I feel extremely blessed in having the opportunity to serve this patient population, which I am sure you know is one of the poorest in the country. Williamsburg County has more than 34,000 people in it and Williamsburg Regional is the only hospital within a 90 mile radius. Being the only general surgeon to fill this void gives me great pride in taking care of this tremendous community need. Being from a small rural town in South Carolina, I know how important this is to you. Since the hospital that I am employed by is a non for profit hospital, they could not help with my student loan debt, which is still a substantial amount. I also took a pay cut relocating from North Charleston, where I practiced for 3 years. Any assistance on repaying my student loan debt would be greatly appreciated by myself and my family. My plan is to stay at least 4 years (my contract maximum) and hopefully until I retire as it is exactly what I was looking for since coming out of residency 3 years ago. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph Asaro, MD, FACS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Asaro', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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