

# Williamsburg

Regional Hospital

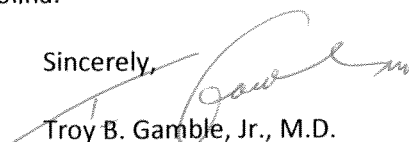
2/15/13

Dear Governor Haley,

Thank you so much for taking your valuable time to meet with those of us who work in rural hospitals in South Carolina to discuss your plans for assisting us with funding issues. We were impressed with the plans you and Director Keck have put forth to correct some of the inequities in funding for hospitals like ours. Your plan is thoughtful and addresses new ways to solve old problems. It frustrated me to see how the media tries to twist and discredit the things you try to do. I would have hoped that funding health care in rural underserved areas where outcomes are the worst would be a non-partisan issue. Please know that we applaud your efforts on our behalf. I would like to invite you to come and visit us at Williamsburg Regional Hospital and look at the ways we are working to save this previously financially troubled facility. I believe what we have accomplished thus far could serve as a model for other facilities like the recently closed facility we discussed in Bamberg where my cousin Dr. Dale Padgett practices. We have tried to be creative using a combination of private sector donations, bond issues in conjunction with the county, and grant money. I am happy to report that we have, in the last 6 months, erased almost 7 million dollars in debt and are starting to turn a profit. We are providing new services like joint replacement, pacemaker placement, and vascular surgical procedures never before provided in this 49 year old facility. We are actively recruiting physicians whose start up salaries we hope to fund with private donations. We have opened a 4 bed state of the art Intensive Care Unit this past Wednesday which I am happy to report was at capacity last evening. Its upgrading was provided by private donation also. We are in the process of installing a computerized medical record and a computerized radiology system for reviewing X-rays which allows quality radiologist at a distant sight to provide our X-ray readings. Our average daily census has gone from 6 to almost 22. We are a critical access hospital at present with only 25 beds but have applied through DHEC to return to acute hospital status and reopen 50 of our previously licensed 78 beds. Again note that most of this has been accomplished with private funding and commonly used business practices. By thinking outside the box, we are doing what Carolinas Hospital in Florence could not seem to accomplish here and Palmetto Health could not accomplish in Bamberg – a financial revival. We will never revitalize our smaller communities or grow our economy without adequate infrastructure which includes a quality hospital and school system. These things as you know make communities attractive to industry.

Again, thank you for your efforts on our behalf. I hope you will consider our invitation to come visit us in the near future. We look forward to working with you and Mr. Keck to better the lives and health care of all of the citizens of South Carolina.

Sincerely,



Troy B. Gamble, Jr., M.D.