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TOA

TENNESSEE ORTHOPAEDIC ALLIANCE

Mr. Logan Grant, Executive Director
Tennessee Health Facilities Commission
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Andrew Jackson Building
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford Freestanding Emergency Room

Dear Mr. Grant,

As a physician practicing in Rutherford County, I am writing to express my strong support for the development of a new freestanding emergency department (FSED) by Ascension Saint Thomas on Lascassas Pike.

This project represents a meaningful investment in the health of our growing community. Beyond the clear value of increasing access to emergency services, what sets this facility apart is its integration into Ascension Saint Thomas' existing network of care. That integration is essential to delivering high-quality, patient-centered healthcare.

Importantly, this new FSED will not operate in isolation. It will be part of a comprehensive, well-coordinated system that connects emergency care with inpatient services, outpatient clinics, specialty providers, and follow-up care. As a physician, I see every day how vital that continuity is. Patients benefit most when their care is timely, connected, and informed by shared records and communication between providers.

Ascension Saint Thomas has served Rutherford County for nearly a century and continues to demonstrate a deep commitment to thoughtful, long-term healthcare solutions. Their presence in our community is defined not just by access, but by excellence in care across specialties—from cardiac and stroke services to women's health and orthopedics.

The new Lascassas Pike FSED will extend that legacy into one of the fastest-growing areas of our county. It will allow patients to receive the emergency care they need, with the confidence that their care will continue seamlessly through a trusted and coordinated health system.

I fully support this development and look forward to the positive impact it will have on the health and wellbeing of our community.

Sincerely



Russell McKissick, MD
Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance