



Feet First, PLLC
345 W. Broad Street, Suite 2
Cookeville, TN 38501
C. Lynn Rosenbaum, D.P.M.
(931) 854-9222

August 27, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a podiatrist who has practiced in the Upper Cumberland region for 25 years, I am writing in strong support of TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused outpatient surgery center in Cookeville.

In my podiatric practice, I regularly care for patients with diabetes, peripheral arterial disease, poor circulation, vascular insufficiency, and wounds that are slow or unable to heal because of inadequate blood flow. I frequently encounter patients who require evaluation and treatment by cardiologists and vascular specialists. Timely access to cardiovascular and peripheral vascular services is critical for these patients, particularly when circulation problems threaten wound healing, mobility, or even limb preservation.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community. The proposed center would provide access to services including cardiac catheterization, electrophysiology, cardiac device implantation, and peripheral vascular services. Having these services available in an outpatient setting in Cookeville would provide an important additional resource for patients throughout the Upper Cumberland region.

From my perspective as a podiatrist, improved access to peripheral vascular evaluation and treatment could be particularly beneficial for patients with diabetes, peripheral arterial disease, and other conditions that compromise circulation. These patients often require coordinated care among podiatrists, primary care providers, cardiologists, vascular specialists, and other healthcare professionals. A local cardiovascular center would make that coordination more accessible and timely.

Many of the patients I care for live in rural communities and face significant challenges accessing specialty medical care. Requiring patients to travel outside the area for cardiovascular or vascular services can create additional delays and burdens, particularly for elderly patients and those with limited mobility. A cardiovascular-focused center in Cookeville would help address these barriers while providing patients with access to specialized care closer to home.

I have seen firsthand the importance of having reliable specialists and timely access to vascular care for patients with lower-extremity circulation problems. TN Heart's proposed project would fill an important need in our community and strengthen the network of healthcare providers available to patients throughout the Upper Cumberland.

For these reasons, I strongly support TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC's Certificate of Need application and respectfully urge the Tennessee Health Facilities Commission to approve this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Lynn Rosenbaum DPM". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Rosenbaum" being more prominent.

C. Lynn Rosenbaum, D.P.M.

drrosenbaum@feet1st.net

Feet First, PLLC

345 West Broad St., Suite 2

Cookeville, TN 38501

From: [Logan Grant](#)
To: [Alecia L. Craighead](#); [Phillip M. Earhart](#); [Thomas P. Pitt](#)
Subject: Fw: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC
Date: Monday, August 17, 2026 12:15:33 PM

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission

From: Chris Archer <carcher@t1institute.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 9:50 AM
To: Logan Grant <Logan.Grant@tn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

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August 15, 2026

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

Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am writing in strong support of TN Heart Surgery Center, LLC and its Certificate of Need application to establish an independent cardiovascular surgery center in Cookeville.

As a Nurse Practitioner with Tier One Orthopedics/Campbell Clinic, I have spent 26 years caring for patients throughout the Upper Cumberland. TN Heart has been a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our region for more than 30 years. Its physicians have developed longstanding relationships with patients, families, and healthcare providers throughout our community and have become an important part of the Upper

Cumberland healthcare system.

I understand that cardiovascular procedures are currently available in the hospital setting. However, a hospital catheterization laboratory does not eliminate the need for, or the benefits of, an independent outpatient cardiovascular facility. TN Heart is no longer managed by the hospital, yet its physicians continue to care for cardiovascular patients throughout our region. Their patients should have the opportunity, when clinically appropriate, to remain with their chosen cardiovascular team through diagnosis, treatment, procedures, and follow-up.

TN Heart's proposed facility would allow its physicians to perform cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, cardiac device implantation, and other appropriate cardiovascular procedures in a dedicated outpatient setting. This would expand local procedural capacity while giving patients an additional choice of where and from whom they receive cardiovascular care.

This is particularly important in the Upper Cumberland, where we serve a large rural region with an aging population, high rates of cardiovascular disease, transportation challenges, and barriers to specialty care. Requiring these procedures to occur through a single hospital-based setting limits options for patients and physicians. An independent TN Heart facility would expand access, preserve continuity with established cardiologists, and help keep patients close to home.

This project is not simply about duplicating an existing hospital service. It is about allowing a trusted cardiovascular practice that has served this community for more than three decades to continue providing comprehensive care in an independent setting. It adds capacity, strengthens continuity of care, increases patient choice, and provides an appropriate outpatient alternative while preserving hospital resources for patients who require hospital-level care.

After 26 years of caring for patients in the Upper Cumberland, I believe our community is best served when patients have meaningful choices and qualified physicians have access to appropriate facilities in which to care for them. TN Heart has earned the trust of this community over more than 30 years, and its physicians should have the opportunity to provide the full continuum of cardiovascular care to the patients they serve.

For these reasons, I strongly support TN Heart's Certificate of Need application and respectfully urge the Tennessee Health Facilities Commission to approve this important project.

Sincerely,

Chris Archer, DNP, MSN, MS, ANP-C, RN, ATC

Nurse Practitioner

Tier One Orthopedics/Campbell Clinic

105 South Willow Avenue

Cookeville, TN

931-526-9518



Seasons Family Medicine, PLLC

Dr. Pamela Sanders, MD

Carly Sturgill, FNP-C

Maurine Robbins, FNP-C

1611 S. Jefferson Ave., Cookeville, TN 38506

Phone: (931) 644-0262

Fax: (833) 992-2128

Mr. Logan Grant

Executive Director

Tennessee Health Facilities Commission

Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor

502 Deaderick Street

Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a primary care physician practicing in the Upper Cumberland region for 13 years, I write in support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology and peripheral vascular services.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and I regularly send my patients to their cardiologists for evaluation and treatment of their cardiovascular disease. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer in its surgery center – cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. Today, these procedures are only available in the hospital setting and we often have access difficulties in our community. Our hospitals are already at capacity and cannot meet the Upper Cumberland region's growing need for cardiovascular services. I have had several occasions of a patient requiring cardiovascular services and being scheduled far enough into the future that it is not acceptable or safe. As a primary care provider, I too often have had to text one of the providers at Tennessee Heart to over-ride scheduling limitations in order to provide appropriate care for a patient. I appreciate the assistance I always receive, but it is an indication that the

current capacity is not adequate to meet our needs. Cookeville's population has grown significantly and unfortunately, cardiac disease is going to continue to increase in our society. Cookeville is also the hub for multiple rural communities surrounding our town as specialty care is not available in those communities directly.

Adding a freestanding outpatient surgery center benefits patients and healthcare providers in our community. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Tennessee and in the service area, and the demographics of our patient population only increase these risks. Patients live in rural areas with limited access to medical care, and we have a rapidly increasing elderly population. This project improves access to timely, affordable, and high-quality care through a familiar provider team.

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physician and staff. This project reiterates their commitment to our patients and fills a strong need in our community. I urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela Sanders, MD, FAAFP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pamela Sanders, MD, FAAFP

Seasons Family Medicine, PLLC

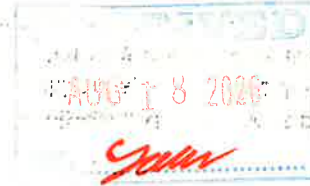
James Gregory Staggs, D.O.

Board Certified Family Practice

753-B Humble Drive, Cookeville, Tennessee 38501

Phone 931-520-1800 • Fax 931-520-1844

08/13/2026



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

Re: Support for TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC Certificate of Need Application

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a primary care physician who has practiced in the Upper Cumberland region for 28 years, I am writing in strong support of TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville.

I regularly refer patients to TN Heart for evaluation and treatment of cardiovascular disease. Many of these patients require procedures such as cardiac catheterization, electrophysiology studies and ablations, and cardiac device implantation—the same services TN Heart proposes to provide at the new center. Currently, these procedures are available only in the hospital setting, where capacity is already strained and demand continues to grow.

This project would provide an important new option for patients throughout the Upper Cumberland, particularly those in rural communities and our growing elderly population. It would improve access to timely, high-quality cardiovascular care while allowing patients to receive care from a trusted provider and familiar medical team.

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physicians and staff. Based on my 28 years of experience caring for patients in this region, I believe this project addresses a genuine need in our community and will benefit both patients and healthcare providers.

I respectfully urge the Tennessee Health Facilities Commission to approve TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center LLC's Certificate of Need application.

Sincerely,

James G. Staggs D.O.

August 13, 2026

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



Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a primary care physician practicing in the Upper Cumberland region for 38 years, I write in support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology and peripheral vascular services.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and I regularly send my patients to their cardiologists for evaluation and treatment of their cardiovascular disease. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer in its surgery center – cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. Today, these procedures are only available in the hospital setting. But our hospitals are already at capacity and cannot meet the Upper Cumberland region's growing need for cardiovascular services.

Adding a freestanding outpatient surgery center benefits patients and healthcare providers in our community. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Tennessee and in the service area, and the demographics of our patient population only increase these risks. Patients live in rural areas with limited access to medical care, and we have a rapidly increasing elderly population. This project improves access to timely, affordable, and high-quality care through a familiar provider team.

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physician and staff. This project reiterates their commitment to our patients and fills a strong need in our community. I urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's project.

Sincerely,

Donald Grisham, M.D.

Internal Medicine

Cookeville, TN 38501

August 13, 2026

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



RE: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a primary care physician practicing in the Upper Cumberland region for 21 years, I write in support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology, and peripheral vascular services.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and I regularly send my patients to their cardiologists for evaluation and treatment of their cardiovascular disease. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer in its surgery center – cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. Today, these procedures are only available in the hospital setting. But our hospitals are already at capacity and cannot meet the Upper Cumberland region's growing need for cardiovascular services.

Adding a freestanding outpatient surgery center benefits patients and healthcare providers in our community. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Tennessee and in the service area, and the demographics of our patient population only increase these risks. Patients live in rural areas with limited access to medical care, and we have a rapidly increasing elderly population. This project improves access to timely, affordable, and high-quality care through a familiar provider team.

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physician and staff. This project reiterates their commitment to our patients and fills a strong need in our community. I urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's Project.

Sincerely,

Shirley Gibson MD
Clinton Family Medical Center

Board of Directors

Claud Atchley · Bridget Booher · Judy Byers · Beth Everley · Jim Flowers · Melvin Groce · Josh Harden · Paula Little · Keith Riddle · Garyon Scott

FAMILY MEDICAL CENTER
ALBANY DOWNTOWN
A Part of Cumberland Family Medical Center, Inc.

Albany Family Medical Center - Downtown
106 N Cross Street
Albany, KY 42602
Phone: 606-328-1204
Fax: 606-328-1209

August 13, 2026

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



Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a primary care physician practicing in the Upper Cumberland/South Central Kentucky region for 6 years, I write in support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology and peripheral vascular services.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and I regularly send my patients to their cardiologists for evaluation and treatment of their cardiovascular disease. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer in its surgery center – cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. Today, these procedures are only available in the hospital setting. But, our hospitals are already at capacity and cannot meet the Upper Cumberland region's growing need for cardiovascular services. Likewise, the use of the hospital for these services is taxing on an already busy facility and decreases patient access to other hospital provided services.

Adding a freestanding outpatient surgery center benefits patients and healthcare providers in our community. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Tennessee and in the service area, and the demographics of our patient population only increase these risks. Patients live in rural areas with limited access to medical care, and we have a rapidly increasing elderly population. This project improves access to timely, affordable, and high-quality care through a familiar provider team.

FAMILY MEDICAL CENTER
ALBANY DOWNTOWN
A Part of Cumberland Family Medical Center, Inc.

Albany Family Medical Center - Downtown
106 N Cross Street
Albany, KY 42602
Phone: 606-328-1204
Fax: 606-328-1209

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physician and staff. This project reiterates their commitment to our patients and fills a strong need in our community. I urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Thacker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas A. Thacker, D.O.

KNOWLES

PRIMARY CARE

Where independence medicine is the new paradigm

August 24, 2026

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



Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a primary care physician practicing in the Upper Cumberland area for the last 16 years, I am writing you in support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology and peripheral vascular services.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and I regularly send my patients to their providers for evaluation and treatment of their cardiovascular disease. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer in its surgery center – cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. At present, these procedures are only available in our area in a hospital setting. And, due to the Upper Cumberland region's growing population, especially older individuals, and the limited capacity of local hospitals, these needs are going unmet.

Adding a freestanding outpatient surgery center benefits patients and healthcare providers in our community. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Tennessee and in our region. With the number of patients we have that live in rural areas, this project improves access to timely, affordable, and high-quality care through a familiar provider team.

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physician and staff. This project reiterates their commitment to our patients and fills a strong need in our community. I strongly recommend the Commission approve TN Heart's project.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Knowles, MD

Robert B. Knowles, MD

Office Location
130 S. Main St.
Sparta, TN 38583

Internal Medicine
P: (931) 837-6963
F: (931) 837-9517

Mailing Address
PO Box 921
Sparta, TN 38583-0921

COOKEVILLE UROLOGY, PLLC

Timothy R. Collins, M.D., F.A.C.S.

28 August 2026

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

Re: Support for C.O.N.-TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

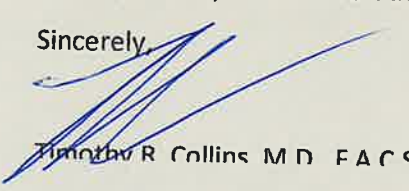
I have practiced medicine in Cookeville, Tn for 28 years. I am writing in support of TN Heart's C.O.N. for an outpatient cardiovascular surgery center.

This group of physicians have been an integral part of our medical community for over 30 years. Their professionalism is exemplary in meeting the cardiovascular needs of the entire region. The addition of a free-standing cardiovascular center keeps our medical community on the cutting edge of available services for the patients of our region.

I have worked with TN Heart as a physician colleague and a patient. I recommend, without reservation, the requested expansion of services in our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Timothy R. Collins MD FACS

Cookeville Urology, PLLC



254 WEST 7th STREET • COOKEVILLE, TN 38501

PHONE 931-520-6270 • FAX 931-520-6286 • TOLL-FREE 1-866-376-5649

TIER 1 ORTHOPEDICS

James D. McKinney, M.D.
John M. Turnbull, M.D.
Gregory J. Roberts, M.D.
Kenneth Grinspun, M.D.
Derek Worley, M.D.
David Burstedt, M.D.
Shawn Stachler, D.O.

Christopher Juels, D.P.M.
Michael Pahl, M.D.
Heather Taillac, M.D.
Jonathon Srouer, D.P.M.
Brian Huff, D.O.
Adrian Viñas, M.D.
Taylor Dennison, M.D.



TIER 1 ORTHOPEDIC AND
INSTITUTE NEUROSURGICAL
A MEMBER OF THE CAMPBELL CLINIC FAMILY

105 S. Willow Ave.
Cookeville, TN 38501
PHONE 931.526.9518
FAX 833.666.0843

35 Taylor Avenue
Crossville, TN 38555
www.T1institute.com

TIER 1 NEUROSURGERY

Joseph A. Jestus, M.D.
Walter J. Jermakowicz, M.D.

August 16, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a surgical specialist practicing in the Upper Cumberland region since 1997, previous Chief of the Medical Staff at Cookeville Regional Medical Center (2021 – 2025), and previous Trustee of the CRMC Board of Trustees (2021 -2025), I write in strong support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology and peripheral vascular services.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and I regularly send my patients to their cardiologists for evaluation and treatment of their cardiovascular disease. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer in its surgery center – cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. Today, these procedures are only available in the hospital setting. But, our hospital is already at capacity and has been for many years and cannot meet the Upper Cumberland region's growing need for cardiovascular services.

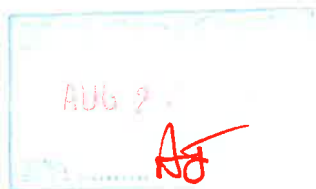
Adding a freestanding outpatient surgery center benefits patients and healthcare providers in our community. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Tennessee and in the service area, and the demographics of our patient population only increase these risks. Patients live in rural areas with limited access to medical care, and we have a rapidly increasing elderly population. This project improves access to timely, affordable, and high-quality care through a familiar provider team.

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physician and staff. This project reiterates their commitment to our patients and fills a strong need in our community. I urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's project.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Jestus M.D.

Tier 1 Neurosurgery



August 17, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am a patient of TN Heart writing to support its project to establish a surgery center in Cookeville providing outpatient cardiac catheterization and related heart procedures.

I had a diagnosis of Atrial Fibrillation in 2022. Dr. Mark Wathen performed my heart ablation surgery in February of 2023. My heart ablation surgery went well, and I have annual checkups.

Currently, there are only two options for cardiac catheterizations in our area, and both are hospitals. This means longer wait times for care, an unfamiliar and stressful environment, higher medical care costs, or, worse, driving to Knoxville or Nashville for cardiovascular procedures. Having the option to receive my heart care team's high-quality care in a convenient, safe, and lower cost outpatient setting would make a real difference for me and other patients and families in our area.

I have trusted the TN Heart team with my care for over 5 years. As part of our community, they know that access to affordable, timely heart care matters. I ask the Health Facilities Commission to approve TN Heart's application and give patients in the Upper Cumberland region a choice for essential cardiac care.

I have a sister and close friend whose lives were saved because of the close proximity of the Tennessee Heart doctors. The Cookeville area's population is growing rapidly and there is an increasing need for additional medical facilities. A few minutes can mean the difference between life and death.

I plead with you to allow Tennessee Heart to grow so that lives may be saved including my sister, my friends and myself.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Sewell
TN Heart Patient





(931) 823-3030
5751 Bradford Hicks Drive • Livingston, TN 38570

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

Re: Support for CON Application- TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am a Family Physician practicing for 39+ years in the Upper Cumberland and want to give my strongest support for TN Heart's Certificate of Need to have this proposed facility. Outpatient cardiovascular procedures are now only done in the hospital setting which severely limits availability, timeliness, and the burgeoning quantity of these vital procedures due to the full capacity of the hospital in Cookeville.

TN Heart has been my valued and trusted colleague for care of my patients, and in fact my own personal cardiac procedures and care (ablation, cardioversion, and stent placement), have been provided by TN Heart.

I own and operate a 10 provider primary care clinic in Overton County and depend on TN Heart for competent and timely care of our approximately 15,000 patients. A freestanding outpatient surgery center will provide more access, more rapid treatment, and more convenience for outpatients in this largely rural region of Tennessee.

My support for this project is strong, and I urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's CON for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Clough".

John R. Clough, M.D. FAAFP



August 18, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am a patient of TN Heart writing to support its project to establish a surgery center in Cookeville providing outpatient cardiac catheterization and related heart procedures.

I presented to the emergency room at Cookeville Regional Medical Center on October 10, 2024 after an episode of ventricular tachycardia. I experienced another episode in the emergency room and another in the Cardiac Catheterization Lab after a successfully completed arteriogram. I had a pacemaker/defibrillator, ICD, implant surgery. I know how important and life-saving it is to have a Cardiac Catheterization Lab available to patients.

Currently, there are only two options for cardiac catheterizations in our area, and both are hospitals. This means longer wait times for care, an unfamiliar and stressful environment, higher medical care costs, or, worse, driving to Knoxville or Nashville for cardiovascular procedures. Having the option to receive my heart care team's high-quality care in a convenient, safe and lower cost outpatient setting would make a real difference for me and other patients and families in our area.

I believe God uses Tennessee Heart and the team to provide healing to those they serve. I recently had an episode of polymorphic ventricular tachycardia at my home. Because of the device implant that initiated a shock to my heart, I am alive and well with no complications. I am thankful that cardiac care is available in our rural area and Tennessee Heart is providing exceptional care. I am living proof!

I have trusted the TN Heart team with my care for almost two years now. As part of our community, they know that access to affordable, timely heart care matters. I ask the Health Facilities Commission to approve TN Heart's application and give patients in the Upper Cumberland region a choice for essential cardiac care.

Sincerely,



Glenda C. Davis
TN Heart Patient



768 S WILLOW AVE

STE A, COOKEVILLE, TN, 38501

Phone:931-559-6900 Fax: (931) 548-6909

08/14/2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a primary care physician practicing in the Upper Cumberland region for 6 years, I write in support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology and peripheral vascular services.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and I regularly send my patients to their cardiologists for evaluation and treatment of their cardiovascular disease. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer in its surgery center – cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. Today, these procedures are only available in the hospital setting. But, our hospitals are already at capacity and cannot meet the Upper Cumberland region's growing need for cardiovascular services.

Adding a freestanding outpatient surgery center benefits patients and healthcare

providers in our community. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Tennessee and in the service area, and the demographics of our patient population only increase these risks. Patients live in rural areas with limited access to medical care, and we have a rapidly increasing elderly population. This project improves access to timely, affordable, and high-quality care through a familiar provider team.

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physician and staff. This project reiterates their commitment to our patients and fills a strong need in our community. I urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Alexander', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steven Alexander

Medical Director

Tennessee Primary Care

TIER 1 ORTHOPEDICS

James D. McKinney, M.D.
John M. Turnbull, M.D.
Gregory J. Roberts, M.D.
Kenneth Grinspun, M.D.
Derek Worley, M.D.
David Burstedt, M.D.
Shawn Stachler, D.O.

Christopher Juels, D.P.M.
Michael Pahl, M.D.
Heather Taillac, M.D.
Jonathon Srouer, D.P.M.
Brian Huff, D.O.
Adrian Viñas, M.D.
Taylor Dennison, M.D.



TIER 1 ORTHOPEDIC AND
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A MEMBER OF THE CAMPBELL CLINIC FAMILY

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TIER 1 NEUROSURGERY

Joseph A. Jestus, M.D.
Walter J. Jermakowicz, M.D.

September 1, 2026

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

Dear Mr. Grant:

As an Orthopaedic Surgeon practicing in the Upper Cumberland region for 22 years, I am writing to support TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville. This facility proposes to offer outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology, and peripheral vascular services.

TN Heart has a long history of being a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and I regularly refer my patients to their cardiologists. Many of my patients require the aforementioned procedures. Currently, these procedures are only available in a hospital setting. However, our local hospitals are at capacity and cannot meet the region's growing need for cardiovascular services.

Adding a freestanding cardiovascular outpatient surgery center will significantly benefit both patients and providers. Heart disease remains the leading cause of death in Tennessee, and our demographic trends exacerbate this risk. We have a rapidly growing elderly population, many of whom live in rural areas with limited access to medical care. This proposed project will improve access to timely, affordable, and high-quality care through a familiar provider team.

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physicians and staff. As a healthcare provider, I am grateful to entrust my patients' cardiac care to such an outstanding group of medical professionals.

This project fills a critical, growing need in our community and reflects TN Heart's continued commitment to our patients. I wholeheartedly urge the Commission to approve the Certificate of Need for the proposed TN Heart surgery center.

Sincerely,



Gregory Roberts, M.D.

Lauren M. Gaffney
lgaffney@bassberry.com
(615) 742-7824

September 16, 2026

VIA EMAIL ONLY

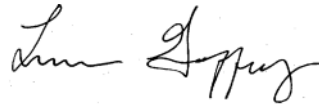
Logan Grant
Executive Director
Tennessee Health Facilities Commission
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243
logan.grant@tn.gov

**Re: TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC – Certificate of Need
Application (CN2607-017)**

Dear Mr. Grant:

Enclosed please find a packet of support letters for the above-referenced project. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the attached.

Regards,



Lauren M. Gaffney

cc: Phillip Earhart (Phillip.M.Earhart@tn.gov)
HFC Staff (hsda.staff@tn.gov)

Enclosures

Atria Health Cookeville Support Letters
CN2607-017

Business and Community Leaders

Chad Anderson, Community Member

Lisa Bumbalough, Public Health Director — Putnam County, TN

Ed Butler, State Representative, District 41

Michael Hale, State Representative, District 40

Dr. J. Scott McKinney, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Cookeville

Sullivan K. Smith, MD, FACEP, Medical Director — Putnam County Emergency Medical Services

Steve Tiebout, The River Community Church

TN Heart Patients

Rodney Mathis, TN Heart Patient

Christopher Ricci, TN Heart Patient

Rosa E. Scarlett, TN Heart Patient

Tom Stephens, TN Heart Patient

Physicians and Other Healthcare Providers

Richard P. Borge, Jr., MD, AMS Cardiovascular ASC

Ernest G. Buchanan IV, MD, Summit Medical Group — Upper Cumberland

Steven S. Gubin, MD, FACC, Stern Cardiovascular Center, PA

Apryl M. Hall, MD, Hall on Call

Hima Kona, MD, TN Lung and Sleep Center

Gary Militana, MD, Mid South Diagnostic Imaging

Carlos Podesta, MD, FACC, Medical Director, TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Vijay Rupanagudi, MD, TN Lung and Sleep Center

Jeffrey Schoondyke, MD, MPH, FACC, CCDS, Medical Director, Karing Hearts
Cardiology Heart & Vascular Center

Christopher S. Sewell, MD, Sewell Family Practice

Colin G. Smith, DO, Father and Son Family Medicine Clinic

Trueman D. Smith, MD, Father and Son Family Medicine Clinic

Lori A. Thomas-Steward, DO

Mark Wathen, MD, FACC, EP Medical Director, TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Kenneth W. Wood, MD, Kenneth W. Wood, MD, LLC

Sarah G. Worley, MD, Summit Medical Group – Cookeville

September 13, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

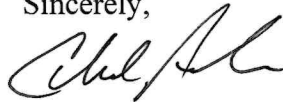
Dear Mr. Grant:

As a member of the Upper Cumberland community, I am writing to support TN Heart and its project to establish a surgery center in Cookeville providing outpatient cardiac catheterization and related heart procedures.

Currently, there are only two options for cardiac catheterizations in our area, and both are hospitals. This means longer wait times for care, an unfamiliar and stressful environment, higher medical care costs, or, worse, driving to Knoxville or Nashville for cardiovascular procedures. Having the option to receive my heart care team's high-quality care in a convenient, safe and lower cost outpatient setting would make a real difference for me and other patients and families in our area.

Our community has trusted the TN Heart team with my care for several years. As part of our community, they know that access to affordable, timely heart care matters. I ask the Health Facilities Commission to approve TN Heart's application and give patients in the Upper Cumberland region a choice for essential cardiac care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Anderson", written in a cursive style.

Chad Anderson
6600 Ensor Creek Road
Baxter, TN 38544

August 16, 2026

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

**Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application
TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC**

Dear Mr. Grant:

As the Director of a Community Health Center in the Upper Cumberland Region for 26 years, I write in support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a local cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology, and peripheral vascular services.

Our Community Health Center regularly refers patients to TN Heart for evaluation and treatment of their cardiovascular disease. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer at its surgery center – cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. Currently, these procedures are only available in the hospital setting.

TN Heart is a trusted provider and has been a valuable Public Health partner for over 18 years. In this rural region, patients face numerous barriers to healthcare, including transportation and financial burdens. To address these barriers, numerous TN Heart providers regularly volunteer in our clinic to treat these individuals during their primary care visits at the health center. They consistently serve the community and seek opportunities to improve health outcomes in this rural region.

As you know, heart disease is the leading cause of death in Tennessee, and the demographics of our patient population only increase these risks. Upper Cumberland Region is a large rural area with limited access to medical care. A freestanding outpatient surgery center will tremendously benefit patients and healthcare providers in our community. This project improves access to timely, affordable, and high-quality care through a familiar provider team.

Putnam County Community Health Center patients consistently report positive feedback with TN Heart's physicians and staff, not only when being treated in our clinic, but also at TN Heart facility. This project reiterates their commitment to patients in the Upper Cumberland and fills a strong need in our community. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bumbalough

Lisa Bumbalough
Public Health Director, Putnam County

Ed Butler
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

425 Rep. John Lewis Way, N.
Cordell Hull Building, Suite 578
Nashville, TN 37243
(615) 741-1260



Member of Committees:

**Transportation Full (Vice
Chairman)**
Transportation Sub
State/Local Full
Cities & Counties Sub

House of Representatives **State of Tennessee**

NASHVILLE

August 31, 2026

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

**Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery
Center, LLC**

Dear Mr. Grant:

I write to express my support for TN Heart's project to establish a surgery center for outpatient cardiac catheterization services and other procedures in the Upper Cumberland region.

The physical, emotional, and financial challenges that come with heart disease are not unique to my constituents; they reflect the same challenges that patients and families throughout the Upper Cumberland region face. TN Heart has been a trusted provider of cardiovascular care within the community for over 30 years and they understand the challenges and medical needs of the area.

Accessing TN Heart's high-quality care in an outpatient surgery center setting would make a big difference in the lives of many of my constituents, providing greater physical and financial peace of mind.

I urge the Commission to approve this important project and allow TN Heart to better serve patients and families in the Upper Cumberland region.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ed Butler', written in a cursive style.

State Representative Ed Butler
House District 41

MICHAEL HALE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
40TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

425 REP. JOHN LEWIS WAY N.
SUITE 672, CORDELL HULL BLDG.
NASHVILLE, TN 37243

OFFICE: (615) 741-2192

rep.michael.hale@capitol.tn.gov



House of Representatives
State of Tennessee
NASHVILLE

COMMITTEES:

COMMERCE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SUBCOMMITTEES:

BUSINESS & UTILITIES

CITIES & COUNTIES

September 14, 2026

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

**Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC
(CN2607-017)**

Dear Mr. Grant:

On behalf of residents in Tennessee House District 40, which includes Cannon, DeKalb, Jackson, Smith and Wilson Counties, I write this letter in strong support of TN Heart's CON application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville.

As a DeKalb County native, longtime operator of a family funeral home, and pastor, I see and hear daily the challenges patients and families in the Upper Cumberland region face in accessing cardiovascular care. Not only are patients limited to undergoing necessary cardiac procedures in a hospital setting, in many cases, they face months-long wait times or travel to Knoxville or Nashville for cardiac care. In a region with a rapidly growing and aging patient population, the ability to access cardiac catheterization services and other procedures in a more convenient, lower cost surgery center setting is essential.

Clinical research from leading industry organizations and federal reimbursement standards support that the procedures TN Heart seeks to offer can be safely performed in a surgery center. And, as a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in the Upper Cumberland region for over 30 years, TN Heart is well-equipped to implement the policies and procedures necessary to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care consistently.

TN Heart's project is a critical addition to the Upper Cumberland region's healthcare system, and I respectfully ask the Commission to approve its CON application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hale", written over a horizontal line.

Representative Michael Hale
District 40



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

Dear Mr. Grant,

I am writing to express the urgent need for a dedicated heart surgery center capable of supporting appropriate outpatient cardiac procedures in our rural community. Residents in rural areas often face significant barriers to cardiovascular care, including long travel distances, limited access to specialists, delayed appointments, and increased financial and emotional strain on patients and families.

Heart disease remains one of the most serious health challenges facing rural populations and impacts families within our congregation. The rising costs of medical care impact all families but are particularly hard on senior adults living on fixed incomes.

By allowing TN Heart to establish an outpatient heart surgery center locally, they would be able to close the gap by providing timely access to cardiac evaluations, minimally invasive procedures when clinically appropriate, pre-operative and post-operative care, and coordinated follow-up. Such a center would reduce unnecessary wait time, support earlier intervention, ease pressure on emergency transport systems, and help keep care connected to local physicians that patients know and trust.

I respectfully urge you to consider supporting the development of TN Heart's Surgery Center for outpatient procedures in our rural area. Our residents deserve access to timely, high-quality cardiovascular care, and this investment would reduce hardship and ultimately improve health outcomes for many families.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the health of our community. I urge the Commission to approve this important project and allow TN Heart to better serve patients and families in the Upper Cumberland region.

Sincerely,

Dr. J. Scott McKinney
Senior Pastor First Baptist Church, Cookeville

September 2, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017)

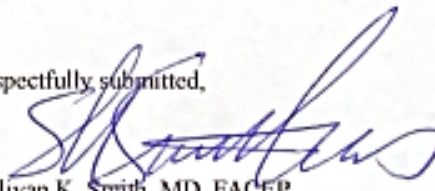
Dear Mr. Grant:

Please accept this letter in support of the CON application of TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC. I have practiced emergency medicine in Cookeville, TN for more than 35 years. I am very familiar with the cardiovascular care delivered in the Upper Cumberland by the Tennessee Heart physician specialists. Over the years, I have had several family members who have had various cardiovascular care issues and needs. Each received superb care from various Tennessee Heart physicians. Never was there a thought about going elsewhere for their cardiology care.

The new cardiovascular surgery center as proposed is a logical next step to expand the quality care provided by Tennessee Heart. Outpatient cardiology services and procedures as planned by Tennessee Heart will provide better access to many cardiac services currently locally available only in the hospital setting. It is my belief that the demand for such an outpatient center is significant and growing.

It is my hope that you will give careful consideration to Tennessee Heart's current surgery center application. I respectfully recommend that you grant the Certificate of Need for the TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC.

Respectfully submitted,



Sullivan K. Smith, MD, FACEP
Medical Director
Putnam County Emergency Medical Services



September 9th, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I want to express my support for TN Heart Surgery Center for out-patient cardiac catheterization services here in Cookeville Tn. I had a heart attack five years ago, and the services from TN Heart were outstanding they truly saved my life. I believe in their diligence and preparation and their desire to see what's best for the patient. As a pastor in the local community, I have had a lot of our members get cardiovascular care at TN Heart and I would say every one of them has had a great experience.

I don't fully understand all that goes into the medical side of providing service for a surgery center for outpatient cardiac care, but I do know this, the Upper Cumberland is growing, and we need that availability to be accessible quickly when there is a heart incident. So, I would ask that you would consider this approval so that those in the Upper Cumberland could have access to those faculties on a regular basis.

Thank you very much,
Steve Tiebout

The River Community Church

September 13, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

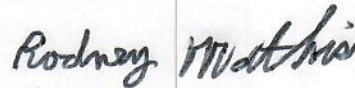
Dear Mr. Grant:

I am a patient of TN Heart writing to support its project to establish a surgery center in Cookeville providing outpatient cardiac catheterization and related heart procedures.

Currently, there are only two options for cardiac catheterizations in our area, and both are hospitals. This means longer wait times for care, an unfamiliar and stressful environment, higher medical care costs, or, worse, driving to Knoxville or Nashville for cardiovascular procedures. Having the option to receive my heart care team's high-quality care in a convenient, safe and lower cost outpatient setting would make a real difference for me and other patients and families in our area.

I have trusted the TN Heart team with my care for 10 years. As part of our community, they know that access to affordable, timely heart care matters. I ask the Health Facilities Commission to approve TN Heart's application and give patients in the Upper Cumberland region a choice for essential cardiac care.

Sincerely,



Rodney Mathis
615 582 Bloomington Road
Baxter, TN 38544
TN Heart Patient

9/11/2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am a patient of TN Heart writing to support its project to establish a surgery center in Cookeville providing outpatient cardiac catheterization and related heart procedures. I first encountered Doctor Mariano Battaglia five years ago when I was 52 years old and having chest pains. Two of my brothers had recently had heart attacks and I was so worried that I too was experiencing one. Having grown up in Boston and worked at Children's Hospital in the Longwood Medical section of the city, the single largest factor that made me hesitate in moving to Cookeville was lack of appropriate medical facilities. While Tennessee Heart provided the utmost in care I realized that they were hindered not by their abilities but due to resources. The older I get, the more pressing this need is for me personally. I feel that Cookeville has everything I am looking for in a new home town except for this one critical area.

Currently, there are only two options for cardiac catheterizations in our area, and both are hospitals. This means longer wait times for care, an unfamiliar and stressful environment, higher medical care costs, or, worse, driving to Knoxville or Nashville for cardiovascular procedures. Having the option to receive my heart care team's high-quality care in a convenient, safe and lower cost outpatient setting would make a real difference for me and other patients and families in our area.

Having recently discovered that I am facing long-term health challenges the shortfalls in facilities and equipment has become even more apparent. The personalized care and aide that I have received for TN Heart is fabulous but without the needed facilities these wonderful medical professionals are shackled in what they can do for me and my neighbors.

I have trusted the TN Heart team with my care for five years. As part of our community, they know that access to affordable, timely heart care matters. I ask the Health Facilities Commission to approve TN Heart's application and give patients in the Upper Cumberland region a choice for essential cardiac care.

Sincerely,

Christopher Ricci
New York Times bestselling author and TN Heart Patient

September 12, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

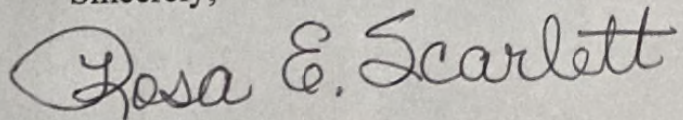
I am a patient of TN Heart writing to support its project to establish a surgery center in Cookeville providing outpatient cardiac catheterization and related heart procedures.

I have been advised by Doctor Wathan that the leads on my pacemaker (placed in the Crossville hospital on December 10, 2024) are not properly placed nor functioning properly. I was advised that I would have to get a referral to Vanderbilt University's Dr. Montgomery to have them replaced because the necessary equipment is not available in Cookeville. I live in Crossville and it is very expensive and time consuming to have to drive to Nashville to have this done. I am confident that I am not the only local patient who must do this. Please strive to get the necessary equipment in Cookeville.

Currently, there are only two options for cardiac catheterizations in our area, and both are hospitals. This means longer wait times for care, an unfamiliar and stressful environment, higher medical care costs, or, worse, driving to Knoxville or Nashville for cardiovascular procedures. Having the option to receive my heart care team's high-quality care in a convenient, safe and lower cost outpatient setting would make a real difference for me and other patients and families in our area. I receive excellent care from our doctors in the Tennessee Heart group. And yet I will have to get established with a new doctor in Nashville, which will involve at least two trips to get the care which is needed.

I have trusted the TN Heart team with my care for over four years now. As part of our community, they know that access to affordable, timely heart care matters. I ask the Health Facilities Commission to approve TN Heart's application and give patients in the Upper Cumberland region a choice for essential cardiac care.

Sincerely,



Rosa E. Scarlett
TN Heart Patient

September 8, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

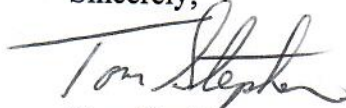
I am a patient of TN Heart writing to support its project to establish a surgery center in Cookeville providing outpatient cardiac catheterization and related heart procedures.

In June 2024, Dr. Corniel was able to find a blocked artery in my heart. He and his team of doctors were able to place a stent and have me back to normal activity within weeks of the procedure. I am grateful for their team of doctors and staff. They have added years to my life and given me more time with my family and friends.

Currently, there are only two options for cardiac catheterizations in our area, and both are hospitals. This means longer wait times for care, an unfamiliar and stressful environment, higher medical care costs, or, worse, driving to Knoxville or Nashville for cardiovascular procedures. Having the option to receive my heart care team's high-quality care in a convenient, safe and lower cost outpatient setting would make a real difference for me and other patients and families in our area.

I have trusted the TN Heart team with my care for 5 years. As part of our community, they know that access to affordable, timely heart care matters. I ask the Health Facilities Commission to approve TN Heart's application and give patients in the Upper Cumberland region a choice for essential cardiac care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Stephens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Stephens" clearly legible.

Tom Stephens
TN Heart Patient



AMS Cardiovascular ASC, PC
507 Prudential Road, Suite 101A
Horsham, PA 19044
(215)-714-7116

September 1, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017)

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a board-certified cardiac electrophysiologist at AMS Cardiology and Medical Director of AMS Cardiovascular Surgery Center, I write to express our practice's enthusiastic support for TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused ambulatory surgical treatment center (ASTC) in Cookeville.

TN Heart is experiencing today what AMS Cardiology faced four years ago: insufficient operating room capacity at local hospitals, resulting in unnecessary cardiac care delays for patients. In October 2024, we partnered with Atria Health to establish AMS Cardiovascular Surgery Center and reduce these barriers to patient care, offering the same scope of cardiovascular care as TN Heart's proposed project. The results have been transformative – most of our patients can now be scheduled for outpatient diagnostic catheterization procedures and electrophysiology procedures in one business day.

Just as with Stern Cardiovascular's recently approved Memphis ASTC project, we know firsthand that the solution TN Heart proposes—an independent, physician-led ASTC developed in partnership with Atria Health—delivers measurable results. Our patients consistently prefer the surgery center setting, and our quality metrics reinforce that patient safety is a top priority. Our surgery center is Joint Commission-accredited, our facility inspections to date have been deficiency-free, and more than 99% of our patients are discharged directly home from the ASTC. Statistics like these highlight Atria Health's track record of collaborating with its physician partners to develop the comprehensive policies and procedures necessary to ensure patients receive care in the clinically appropriate setting.



AMS Cardiovascular ASC, PC
507 Prudential Road, Suite 101A
Horsham, PA 19044
(215)-714-7116

We respectfully urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's application and allow patients in Tennessee's Upper Cumberland region to experience the same benefits that AMS Cardiovascular Surgery Center brought to our community: faster access to life-saving cardiac care, reduced costs, and uncompromised quality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Borge, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard P. Borge, Jr., M.D.
Partner, AMS Cardiology
Medical Director, AMS Cardiovascular ASC



Upper Cumberland Family Physicians

Jane Anne Gotcher, MD
Ernest G. Buchanan, IV MD

Margaux Maynard, FNP
Katherine Little, FNP
Abby Thornton, FNP
Haley King, AGACNP

1101 Neal St
Cookeville, TN 38501
Phone (931) 528-7797
Fax (833) 449-5334

**SUMMIT MEDICAL GROUP
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

1275 Dick Lonas Rd, Suite 201
Knoxville, TN 37909

Phone (865) 584-4747
Fax (865) 584-1363

www.summitmedical.com

OFFICERS

Brad Rogers, MHA
Chief Executive Officer

Tim Lawson, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

Rachael Britt-McGraw, CHCIO, CDH-E
Chief Information Officer

Valerie Walls, SHRM-SCP
Chief Human Resources Officer

Wendy Ferrell-Smith, MHI
Chief Value-Based Care Officer

August 14, 2026

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

**Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular
Surgery Center, LLC**

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am a simple country doctor with 26 years of experience in the Upper Cumberland, and I write in support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology and peripheral vascular services.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and I send my patients to their cardiologists for evaluation and treatment of their cardiovascular disease. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer in its surgery center – cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. Today, these procedures are only available in the hospital setting. Our hospitals are already at capacity and cannot meet the Upper Cumberland region's growing need for cardiovascular services. Cookeville growth has outpaced anyone's plans and timely access to these important procedures is at risk without additional capacity. There is an opportunity to lower overall cost of care for these complicated cases. Tennessee Heart currently sees TennCare patients and Medicaid patients and many cardiac centers do not. I expect them to continue to be available for these high-risk patients and in that context support this CON fully.

The Upper Cumberland is aging and growing faster than current infrastructure is ready to support.

Sincerely,





Stern Cardiovascular Center, PA

EXCELLENCE IN CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE, RESEARCH AND PATIENT CARE

September 2, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017)

Dear Mr. Grant:

On behalf of Stern Cardiovascular, I write in strong support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused ambulatory surgical treatment center (ASTC) in Cookeville. This project will provide patients in the Upper Cumberland region with the same access to high-quality outpatient cardiovascular procedures that our Shelby County patients will gain through our recently approved ASTC project. As co-owners of the TN Heart project, Stern is proud to partner with the TN Heart physicians and our manager, Atria Health, to develop a much-needed cardiovascular center of excellence serving Cookeville and surrounding communities.

Like our Shelby County ASTC project, TN Heart's ASTC will enable a well-established cardiovascular group to address a critical patient care need they encounter daily. Currently, patients in the Upper Cumberland region can only undergo necessary cardiovascular procedures in an inpatient hospital setting – even when those procedures can be safely and effectively performed on an outpatient basis. Making matters worse, the two hospitals offering cardiac catheterization services operate well-above full capacity, forcing patients to endure extended wait times for non-emergent cardiovascular procedures.

The Commission recognized this very need in July when it unanimously approved our Shelby County ASTC project, and there is every reason to reach the same conclusion here. Approval of TN Heart's project will deliver clear clinical and financial benefits for all service area patients: care delivered in a setting that matches patient needs, reduced costs for patients and payors alike, and preserved hospital capacity for patients who truly require inpatient treatment.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Commission to approve this project.

Sincerely,

Steven S. Gubin, M.D., F.A.C.C.

President

The Stern Cardiovascular Center, P.A.

Hall on Call

Pediatric Hospitalist Services

Apryl M. Hall, MD

3578 Rolling Hills Rd.

Cookeville, TN 38506

931-510-0507

September 6, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am a physician and a life-long resident of Cookeville. Over the years I have held multiple leadership positions within our local hospital system. From that perspective, I write in strong support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to open a surgery center for outpatient cardiac procedures.

TN Heart has been a cornerstone of cardiac care in the Upper Cumberland region for 32 years. Throughout that time, the physicians and staff have consistently delivered high-quality, patient-centered care and have earned the trust of countless families, including my own. They are not merely a medical practice; they are a true community stronghold.

Our population has grown significantly and has outpaced the capacity of existing hospital-based services. As a result, patients often face delays in accessing timely advanced cardiac care. A surgery center dedicated to these procedures would allow more people in our community to receive the care they need more quickly, in a convenient and efficient setting, without the unnecessary barriers that currently exist.

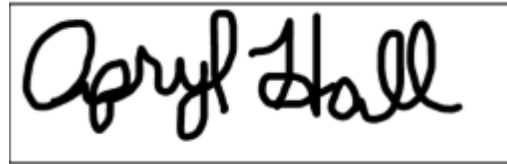
This service would be invaluable. Expanding access through a specialized outpatient facility will reduce wait times, improve continuity of care, and better serve the growing number of residents who depend on TN Heart. Approving this Certificate of Need will strengthen cardiac care capacity in a region that clearly needs it.

I respectfully urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's application. The physicians and team have demonstrated decades of commitment to this community, and this expansion is a logical and

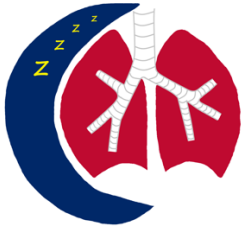
necessary next step to meet the needs of the patients they have served so well for more than three decades.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Apryl Hall".

Apryl Hall, MD
Hall on Call



TN LUNG AND SLEEP CENTER

135 W 3RD ST | COOKEVILLE TN

PHONE: (931) 202 3697

FAX: (833) 944 0207



EMAIL TWITTER HANDLE

TELEPHONE

LINKEDIN URL

Aug. 14, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a local radiologist practicing in the Upper Cumberland region for more than 30 years, I write in support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology and peripheral vascular services.

I am not only a radiologist but a patient, along with my wife, of TN Heart and greatly appreciate their services.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and my patients speak highly of their experience with the TN Heart physicians. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer in its surgery center – cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. Today, these procedures are only available in the hospital setting; but our hospitals are already at capacity and cannot meet the Upper Cumberland region's growing need for cardiovascular services.

Adding a freestanding outpatient surgery center benefits patients and healthcare providers in our community. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Tennessee and in the service area, and the demographics of our patient population only increase these risks. Patients live in rural areas with limited access to medical care, and we have a rapidly increasing elderly population. This project improves access to timely, affordable, and high-quality care through a familiar provider team.

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physician and staff. This project reiterates their commitment to our patients and fills a strong need in our community. I urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's project.

Sincerely,



Gary Militana, M.D.

Mid South Diagnostic Imaging



August 31, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017)

Dear Mr. Grant:

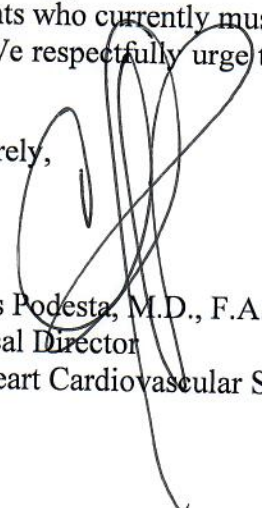
My name is Dr. Carlos Podesta, and I am a board-certified interventional cardiologist practicing with TN Heart. I am honored to serve as the Medical Director for TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, a proposed cardiovascular-focused ambulatory surgical treatment center (ASTC) our practice is developing to better serve our patients in Cookeville and the surrounding areas. Bringing together three leaders in cardiovascular care, including our practice, Stern Cardiovascular, and Atria Health, the project will deliver high-quality, comprehensive ambulatory cardiovascular services in a freestanding ASTC setting.

Consistent with the Commission's July 2026 approval of Stern's parallel Shelby County project, our application aligns with current clinical standards and payor coverage policies. Extensive evidence from leading professional organizations – including the American College of Cardiology and the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions – demonstrates the safety and efficacy of performing the proposed cardiovascular procedures in outpatient settings. As a result, nationwide, we are seeing increasing numbers of diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterizations and electrophysiology procedures shift from hospitals to surgery center environments, improving patient access while maintaining excellent outcomes.

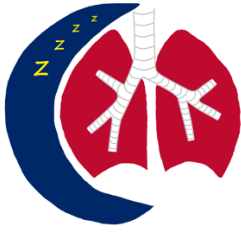
From a clinical perspective, I can personally attest to the safety of performing these procedures in our proposed ASTC. Working alongside Atria Health, TN Heart will implement comprehensive, industry-leading safety protocols, including rigorous patient selection criteria, anesthesia oversight by qualified providers, transfer agreements with nearby inpatient facilities, onsite advanced life support capabilities, radiation safety measures, sterile processing standards, and continuous quality monitoring. These safeguards will ensure high-quality, patient-centered care at all times.

Our practice is committed to bringing these evidence-based approaches to cardiovascular care to the Upper Cumberland region, expanding access for patients who currently must endure long wait times and travel significant distances for these services. We respectfully urge the Commission to approve our Certificate of Need application.

Sincerely,



Carlos Podesta, M.D., F.A.C.C.
Medical Director
TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center,
LLC



TN LUNG AND SLEEP CENTER

135 W 3RD ST | COOKEVILLE TN

PHONE: (931) 202 3697

FAX: (833) 944 0207



EMAIL TWITTER HANDLE

TELEPHONE

LINKEDIN URL



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

**Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC
(CN2607-017)**

Dear Mr. Grant:

On behalf of Karing Hearts Cardiology, I write in strong support of Stern Cardiovascular's Cookeville-based cardiovascular surgery center project, TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center. As the Medical Director of an established, freestanding cardiac catheterization laboratory, I can speak directly to the transformative benefits such facilities provide to patients and communities.

As I shared at the Commission's July meeting approving Stern's Shelby County ASTC project, creating non-hospital, outpatient options for cardiovascular services, including cardiac catheterizations and EP procedures, is critical for all Tennesseans. This need is particularly acute in the Upper Cumberland region, where like in our Johnson City practice, the majority of patients live in rural areas with limited access to specialized cardiovascular medical care.

The results from our freestanding cardiac catheterization laboratory speak for themselves: in less than one year, the cardiac catheterizations and device implants performed at our facility saved Medicare \$1.5 million and reduced our patients' out-of-pocket medical costs by more than \$500,000 – all while maintaining an exemplary safety record and the highest quality patient care. I am confident TN Heart's project will achieve similar results. Patients across the Upper Cumberland region will receive cardiovascular care tailored to their needs in a convenient, outpatient setting, while increasing the hospitals' capacity to serve patients requiring emergent, inpatient, or high-acuity care.

TN Heart has served Cookeville and the surrounding communities for more than three decades, earning the trust of patients throughout the region. Based on our experience, I am certain that Cookeville-area patients will realize the same meaningful improvements in access, affordability, and quality of care that our patients have.

701 N. State of Franklin, Ste 2
Johnson City, TN 37604 – 423.926.4468
www.karingheartscardiology.com

For these reasons, I respectfully and strongly urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's Certificate of Need application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey W. Schoondyke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "J" and "S".

Jeffrey Schoondyke, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.C., C.C.D.S.

Medical Director

Karing Hearts Cardiology Heart & Vascular Center

C.S. Sewell, M.D., P.C.

341 West Central Avenue • P.O. Box 1320

Jamestown, TN 38556

Office: (931) 879-9892

Fax: (931) 879-9893

August 14, 2026

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

RE: Support for Certificate of Need Application - TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr Grant:

As a primary care physician practicing in the Upper Cumberland region for 27 years, I write in support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology and peripheral vascular services. Due to limited availability at Cookeville Hospital, many of my patients have to be sent to Nashville or Knoxville which creates a burden and hardship for them.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and I regularly send my patients to their cardiologists for evaluation and treatment of the cardiovascular disease. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer in its surgery center - cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. Today, these procedures are only available in the hospital setting. But, our hospitals are already at capacity and cannot meet the Upper Cumberland region's growing need for cardiovascular services.

Adding a freestanding outpatient surgery center benefits patients and healthcare providers in our community. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Tennessee and in the service area, and the demographics of our patients population only increase these risks. Patients live in rural areas with limited access to medical care, and we have a rapidly increasing elderly population. This project improves access to timely, affordable, and high quality care through a familiar provider team.

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physician and staff. This project reiterates their commitment to our patients and fills a strong need in our community. I urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's project.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Sewell, M.D.
Sewell Family Practice

August 18, 2026

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



Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a primary care physician practicing in the Upper Cumberland region for 12 years, I write in support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology and peripheral vascular services.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and I regularly send my patients to their cardiologists for evaluation and treatment of their cardiovascular disease. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer in its surgery center – cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. Today, these procedures are only available in the hospital setting. But, our hospitals are already at capacity and cannot meet the Upper Cumberland region's growing need for cardiovascular services.

Adding a freestanding outpatient surgery center benefits patients and healthcare providers in our community. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Tennessee and in the service area, and the demographics of our patient population only increase these risks. Patients live in rural areas with limited access to medical care, and we have a rapidly increasing elderly population. This project improves access to timely, affordable, and high-quality care through a familiar provider team.

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physician and staff. This project reiterates their commitment to our patients and fills a strong need in our community. I urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's project.

Sincerely,


Colin G. Smith, DO

Father and Son Family Medicine Clinic

August 18, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

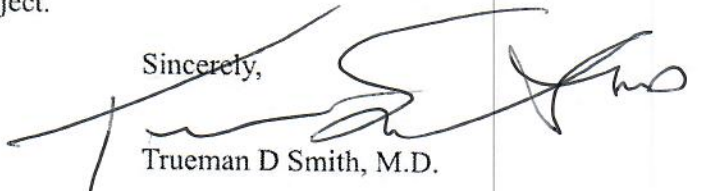
As a primary care physician practicing in the Upper Cumberland region for 32 years, I write in support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology and peripheral vascular services.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and I regularly send my patients to their cardiologists for evaluation and treatment of their cardiovascular disease. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer in its surgery center – cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. Today, these procedures are only available in the hospital setting. But, our hospitals are already at capacity and cannot meet the Upper Cumberland region's growing need for cardiovascular services.

Adding a freestanding outpatient surgery center benefits patients and healthcare providers in our community. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Tennessee and in the service area, and the demographics of our patient population only increase these risks. Patients live in rural areas with limited access to medical care, and we have a rapidly increasing elderly population. This project improves access to timely, affordable, and high-quality care through a familiar provider team.

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physician and staff. This project reiterates their commitment to our patients and fills a strong need in our community. I urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's project.

Sincerely,


Trueman D Smith, M.D.

Father and Son Family Medicine Clinic



The Office of Dr. Lori A. Thomas

753 Humble Drive, Suite B
Cookeville, TN 38501-4201
Office: 931-520-1800
Fax: 931-372-1786

August 13, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

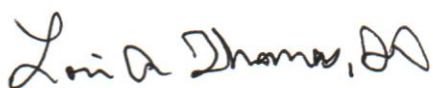
As a primary care physician practicing in the Upper Cumberland region for 13 years, I write in support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology and peripheral vascular services.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and I regularly send my patients to their cardiologists for evaluation and treatment of their cardiovascular disease. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer in its surgery center – cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. Today, these procedures are only available in the hospital setting. But, our hospitals are already at capacity and cannot meet the Upper Cumberland region's growing need for cardiovascular services.

Adding a freestanding outpatient surgery center benefits patients and healthcare providers in our community. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Tennessee and in the service area, and the demographics of our patient population only increase these risks. Patients live in rural areas with limited access to medical care, and we have a rapidly increasing elderly population. This project improves access to timely, affordable, and high-quality care through a familiar provider team.

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physician and staff. This project reiterates their commitment to our patients and fills a strong need in our community. I urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori A. Thomas, D.O." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lori A. Thomas-Steward, D.O.

Dr. Lori A. Thomas



September 9, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017)

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a physician who has dedicated more than fifteen years serving patients with TN Heart, I am proud to take on the role of Medical Director of Electrophysiology (EP) Services at our proposed Cookeville cardiovascular surgery center, TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center. My specialty is the study of heart rhythms, which is the focus of the EP procedures and studies we perform in our practice. Through my clinical work and research, I established the EP programs at TN Heart and Cookeville Regional Medical Center (CRMC), and I am deeply committed to advancing our ability to care for patients in the Upper Cumberland region through this proposed surgery center.

Today, patients in the Upper Cumberland region face an unacceptable wait – an average of 8 months for necessary EP procedures and studies. CRMC is the only option in the service area for outpatient EP procedures, creating a critical bottleneck that puts patient health at risk. For example, the Heart Rhythm Society has recommended that atrial fibrillation is treated within the first year of diagnosis. Furthermore, atrial fibrillation progresses from paroxysmal to persistent and outcomes are improved when treating paroxysmal. Seventy-five percent of ablations are for paroxysmal, however in Cookeville only 25 % of ablations are for paroxysmal because 75% have already progressed to persistent, which is known to be associated with worse long-term outcomes. When a patient is unable to get an ablation in a timely manner they end up coming to the emergency room for cardioversions or can end up with heart failure or stroke, which are outcomes of atrial fibrillation.

Our project directly addresses this growing gap in care, enabling patients to receive timely, high-quality care in a more convenient and lower cost outpatient surgery center setting. This is especially critical for our rural patient population, which already faces higher rates of chronic disease and worse health outcomes. Forcing patients to delay essential cardiac care – or requiring them to travel hours to Knoxville or Nashville – is a burden that disproportionately harms the most vulnerable members of our community.

Clinical research and evidence published by leading cardiovascular organizations, like the American College of Cardiology, the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions, and the American Heart Association, strongly support the safety and efficacy of performing EP procedures in outpatient surgery center settings. Restricting these procedures to the inpatient hospital setting contradicts current evidence-based standards of care.

We respectfully urge the Commission to approve this project, which will serve the best interests of our patients by significantly expanding access to higher quality, lower-cost cardiovascular care for the people of the Upper Cumberland region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Wathen', followed by a stylized flourish or initial.

Mark Wathen, M.D., F.A.C.C.
EP Medical Director
TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery
Center, LLC

Kenneth W. Wood, M.D., LLC

August 13, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application - TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a primary care physician practicing in the Upper Cumberland region for 28 years, I write in support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology, and peripheral vascular services.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and I regularly send my patients to their cardiologists for evaluation and treatment of their cardiovascular disease. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer in its surgery center - cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. Today, these procedures are only available in the hospital setting. But, our hospitals are already at capacity and cannot meet the Upper Cumberland region's growing need for cardiovascular services.

Adding a freestanding outpatient surgery center benefits patients and healthcare providers in our community. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Tennessee and in the service area, and the demographic of our patient population only increase these risks. Patients live in rural areas with limited access to medical care, and we have a rapidly increasing elderly population. This project improves access to timely, affordable, and high-quality care through a familiar provider team.

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physician and staff. This project reiterates their commitment to our patients and fills a strong need in our community. I urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's project.

Sincerely,



Kenneth W. Wood, M.D.

Kenneth W. Wood, M.D., LLC

Kenneth W. Wood, M.D.

Brooke Hewett, FNP-C

Kennethwoodmdllc@gmail.com

Phone: (931)854-9880

315 N. Washington, Ste 130

Cookeville, TN 38501

Fax: (931)854-0919



SUMMIT
MEDICAL GROUP

**SUMMIT MEDICAL GROUP
OF COOKEVILLE**

Lori L. Austin, MD
Eric C. Lisic, DO
Beverly S. Thomas, MD
Sarah G. Worley, MD
Lora P. Worsham, MD

Sandra Bailiff, CNP
Emily Gentry, FNP
April Looper, PA
Emily Walker, FNP

128 N. Whitney Avenue
Cookeville, TN 38501
Phone (931) 783-4600
Fax (844) 215-8510

**SUMMIT ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICES**

1275 Dick Lonas Rd, Suite 201
Knoxville, TN 37909
Phone (865) 584-4747
Fax (865) 584-1363
www.summitmedical.com

OFFICERS

Ed Curtis, CMPE
Chief Executive Officer
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Chief Information Officer
Eric Penniman, DO
Executive Medical Director
Valerie Walls, SHRM-SCP
Chief Human Resources Officer
Wendy Ferrell-Smith, MHI
Chief Value-Based Care Officer

August 20, 2026

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

**Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular
Surgery Center, LLC**

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a primary care physician practicing in the Upper Cumberland region for 6 years and a local being born and raised in this community, I write in support of TN Heart's Certificate of Need application to establish a cardiovascular-focused surgery center in Cookeville, offering outpatient cardiac catheterization, cardiac device implantation, electrophysiology and peripheral vascular services.

TN Heart is a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community, and I regularly send my patients to their cardiologists for evaluation and treatment of their cardiovascular disease. These patients often require the procedures TN Heart proposes to offer in its surgery center – cardiac catheterizations, cardiac ablations, electrophysiology studies, and cardiac device implantation. Today, these procedures are only available in the hospital setting. But, our hospitals are already at capacity and cannot meet the Upper Cumberland region's growing need for cardiovascular services.

Adding a freestanding outpatient surgery center benefits patients and healthcare providers in our community. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Tennessee and in the service area, and the demographics of our patient population only increase these risks. Patients live in rural areas with limited access to medical care, and we have a rapidly increasing elderly population. This project improves access to timely, affordable, and high-quality care through a familiar provider team.

My patients consistently report positive experiences with TN Heart's physician and staff. This project reiterates their commitment to our patients and fills a strong need in our community. I urge the Commission to approve TN Heart's project.

Sincerely,

Sarah G. Worley, M.D.
Summit Medical Group, Cookeville

Lauren M. Gaffney
lgaffney@bassberry.com
(615) 742-7824

September 18, 2026

VIA EMAIL ONLY

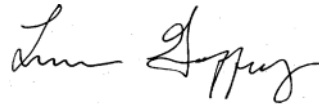
Logan Grant
Executive Director
Tennessee Health Facilities Commission
502 Deaderick Street, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243
logan.grant@tn.gov

**Re: TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC – Certificate of Need
Application (CN2607-017)**

Dear Mr. Grant:

Enclosed please find a packet of letters and petitions expressing support for the above-referenced project. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the attached.

Regards,



Lauren M. Gaffney

cc: Phillip Earhart (Phillip.M.Earhart@tn.gov)
HFC Staff (hsda.staff@tn.gov)

Enclosures

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center Support Letters
CN2607-017

Support Letter

Bobby Davis, Senior Pastor – Life Church

Community Support Petition

Signatures from 139 community members

Patient Support Petition

Signatures from 64 TN Heart patients



September 17, 2026

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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant,

As Senior Pastor of Life Church in Cookeville, I write to express my support for Tennessee Heart's project to establish a surgery center for outpatient cardiac catheterization services and other procedures in the Upper Cumberland region.

Heart disease touches nearly every family in our congregation as do the rising costs of medical care, especially for our senior members living on fixed incomes. These challenges are not unique to our congregation. They reflect the same challenges that patients and families throughout the Upper Cumberland region face. As a trusted provider of cardiovascular care in our community for over 30 years, Tennessee Heart understands these challenges and the medical needs of Cookeville and surrounding areas.

Having visited many church members in the hospital before and after cardiac procedures, I see how disorienting and stressful the hospital can be. Accessing Tennessee Heart's high-quality care in an outpatient surgery center setting would make a big difference, providing greater physical and financial peace of mind.

Caring for our neighbors, including their physical well-being, is central to our mission. I urge the Commission to approve this important project and allow Tennessee Heart to better serve patients and families in the Upper Cumberland region.

Sincerely,

Bobby Davis
Senior Pastor – Life Church



2223 N Washington Ave
Cookeville, TN 38501



(931) 526-6900



www.livelifechurch.com



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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017)

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a member of the Upper Cumberland community, I am signing this petition to support TN Heart's plan to open an outpatient heart surgery center in Cookeville, Tennessee. This center would be the first of its kind in the Upper Cumberland area and would give residents a new option for heart care close to home.

Access to good heart care matters to all of us in the Upper Cumberland, including patients and their families. Heart disease is the number one cause of death in Tennessee, and rates in our area are higher than the state and national averages. Many of our neighbors live in rural areas far from hospitals that offer heart procedures. When residents have to wait weeks or months for care or drive long distances to get it, their health can suffer. TN Heart's new center would help residents get the care they need sooner and closer to home.

Right now, there is no outpatient heart surgery center in our area. If residents need a heart procedure, they have to go to a hospital—often in Nashville or Knoxville, which can be 80 miles away or more. This means longer wait times, higher costs, and a lot of travel for people who may already not feel well. Some residents put off getting care because it is too hard to get to. For residents throughout the Upper Cumberland, having an outpatient option nearby would mean shorter waits, lower costs, and less time away from home and family.

TN Heart has served the Upper Cumberland community for more than thirty years, providing cardiovascular care and becoming a trusted part of the community. Its doctors and staff understand how important it is for residents to receive good heart care without having to travel far from home. I ask the Tennessee Health Facilities Commission to approve TN Heart's application so that residents in our area can have better access to the heart care our community needs.

Sincerely,

Community Supporter

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Community Support Petition

Number	Name	Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
1.	Kelley Coker	Kelley Coker	White Co'	9/11/26
2.	Kerry Coker	Kerry Coker	White Co'	
3.	M Smith	M Smith	Putnam Co	9/11/26
4.	Debbie Hayes	Debbie Hayes	Putnam' County	9/12/26
5.	Angie Landford	Angie Landford	" " "	9-12-26
6.	Eddie Perez	Eddie Perez	Putnam'	9-12-26
7.	Kathi Speicher	Kathi Speicher	Smith'	9-12-26
8.	Cheyenne Frasier	Cheyenne Frasier	Sparks White County	9-12-26
9.	Michael B	Michael Borden	Putnam County	9-12-26
10.	Ed Sawyer	Ed Sawyer	Putnam'	9-12-26

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Community Support Petition

Number	Name	Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
11.	Ana L. Howell	Ana L. Howell	Cookeville ' Putnam	9-12-26
12.	Karen Cox	Karen Cox	Cookeville ' Putnam	9-12-26
13.	Kelli Farris	Kelli Farris	Ringsdorf ' GA	9-12-26
14.	Cynthia Bales	Cynthia Bales	Cookeville ' Putnam	9-12-26
15.	Harold Bales	Harold Bales	Cookeville ' Putnam	9-12-26
16.	Daniel Bryant	Daniel Bryant	Cookeville ' Putnam	9-12-26
17.	Cynthia Bryant	Cynthia Bryant	Cookeville ' Putnam	9-12-26
18.	JEFF HAYES	Jeff Hayes	PUTNAM ' Putnam	9-12-26
19.	Karii Qualls	Karii Qualls	Cookeville ' putnam	9/14/26
20.	Adie Coker	Adie Coker	sparta ' white	9/14/26

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Community Support Petition

Number	Name	Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
21.	James Mark Kennedy	James Mark Kennedy	Cookeville' Putnam	9/12/26
22.	Sarah Kennedy	Sarah Kennedy	Cookeville' Putnam	9/12/26
23.	Linda Ross	Linda Ross	Cookeville' Putnam	9/12/26
24.	Raymond Kennedy	Ray Kennedy	Cookeville' Putnam	9/12/26
25.	Monica Sawyer	Monica Sawyer	Putnam'	9/12/26
26.	Brad Sawyer	Brad Sawyer	Sumner' Hendersonville	9/12/26
27.	Ted Monday	Ted Monday	Crossville' Cumberland	9/12/26
28.	Grace Gray	Grace Gray	Livingston' Overton	9/12/26
29.	Jared Gray	Jared Gray	Livingston' Overton	9/12/26
30.	Ruth Toon	Ruth Toon	Cookeville, TN	9/12/26

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Community Support Petition

Number	Name	Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
31.	Abhi Chaudhary	Abhi Chaudhary	Cookeville Putnam	9-12
32.	Lauran Wallace	Lauran Wallace	Cookeville Putnam	9-12
33.	Kaylene Johnson	Kaylene Johnson	Cookeville White	9/12
34.	Rhonda Bartlett	Rhonda Bartlett	Cookeville Putnam	9/12/26
35.	Carrie Wood	Carrie Wood	Cookeville Putnam	9/12/26
36.	Vesna Markovic	Vesna Markovic	Cookeville Putnam	9/12/26
37.	Zachary Evans	Zachary Evans	Spring Hill White	9/12/26
38.	Jeffrey Michael Fournier	Jeffrey Michael Fournier	Spring Hill White	9/12/26
39.	Brenda Mabe	Brenda Mabe	Cookeville Overton	9/12/25
40.	Grace Howard	Grace Howard	Cookeville Putnam	9/12/26

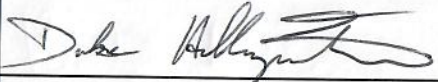
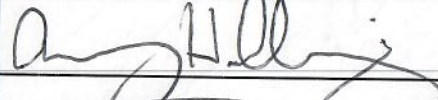
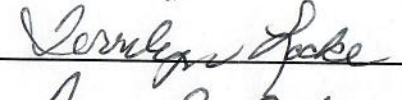
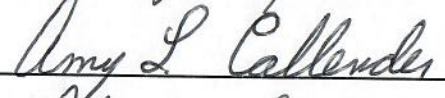
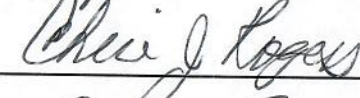
TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Community Support Petition

Number	Name	Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
41.	Bob Blair	Bob Blair	Cokerale ' Putnam	9/12/26
42.	Pam Blair	Pam Blair	Cokerale ' Putnam	9/12/26
43.	Tracy Dwyer	Tracy Dwyer	Lafayette ' Macon	9/12/26
44.	Jonathan Frye	Jonathan Frye	Lafayette ' Macon	9/12/26
45.	Jordan Frye	Jordan Frye	Cookeville ' Putnam	9/12/26
46.	Ashley Reynolds	Ashley Reynolds	Livingston ' Overton	9/12/26
47.	Beffie Mann	Beffie Mann	Cookeville ' Putnam	9/12/26
48.	Beth Mann	Beth Mann	Putnam ' Putnam	9/12/26
49.	Stacey Jackson	Stacey Jackson	Putnam ' Putnam	
50.	Daria Porocnik	Daria Porocnik	Putnam ' Cookeville	9/12/26

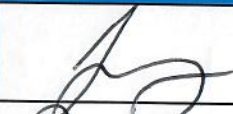
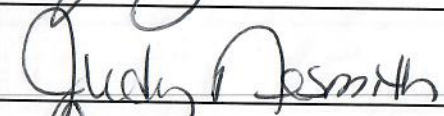
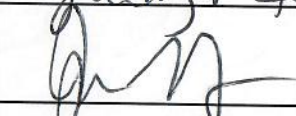
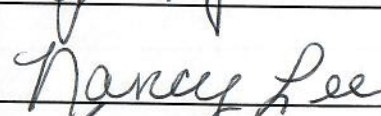
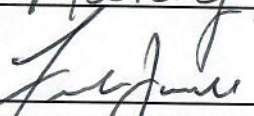
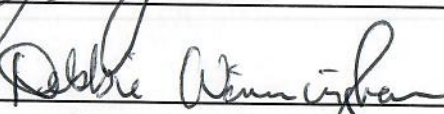
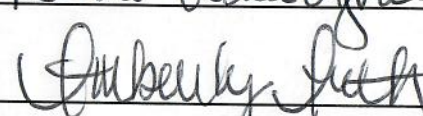
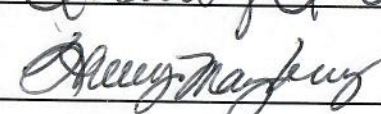
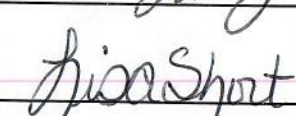
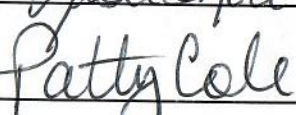
TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Community Support Petition

Number	Name	Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
51.	Brittney Grenga	Brittney Grenga	Cookeville Putnam	
52.	Ashley Clemons	Ashley Clemons	Cookeville Putnam	9/12/26
53.	Caroline K. Hunter	Caroline K. Hunter	Cookeville Putnam	9/12/26
54.	Karen L. Bruno	Karen L. Bruno	Cookeville Putnam	9/12/26
55.	Stephanie Beckwith	Stephanie Beckwith	Cookeville Putnam	9/12/26
56.	Melanie Beckwith	Melanie Beckwith	Cookeville Putnam	9/12/26
57.	Haley Stafford	Haley Stafford	Sparta	9-12-26
58.	Kaitlyn Stafford	Kaitlyn Stafford	Sparta	9/12/26
59.	Matt the Wadley		Cookeville	9-12-26
60.	Diane Glasgow	Diane Glasgow	Cookeville	9/12/26

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Community Support Petition

Number	Name	Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
61.	Duke Hollingsworth		cookeville ' Putnam	9-12-26
62.	Amy Hollingsworth		Cookeville ' Putnam	9-12-2026
63.	Fred Huesion		cookeville ' PUTNAM	9/12/26
64.	Adam Spriggs		cookeville' Putnam	9/12/26
65.	Brittany Hunte		cookeville' putnam	9/12/26
66.	Terrilyn Locke		Cookeville' Putnam	9/12/26
67.	Amy L. Callender		Cookeville' Putnam	9/12/26
68.	Cheri Rogers		Cookeville ' Putnam	9/12/26
69.	Kevin Beville		Cookeville ' Putnam	9-12-26
70.	Ashley Beville		Cookeville / Putnam	9-12-26

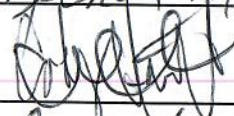
TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Community Support Petition

Number	Name	Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
71.	JEFF BORGIO		COOKVILLE / PUTNAM	12-SEP-26
72.	Judy Nesmith		Cookeville' Putnam	9-12-26
73.	Jim Nesmith		" " "	9/12/26
74.	Nancy Lee		Cookeville Tn	9-12-26
75.	Frank Zanardi		Castello ' tn	9-12-26
76.	Debbie Winingham		'	9-12-26
77.	Amberly Auch		'	9/12/26
78.	Sherry Maybury		Cookeville Tn	9/12/26
79.	Lisa Short		Cookeville, TN	9-12-26
80.	Patty Cole		Cookeville, Tn	9-12-26

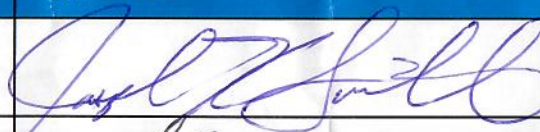
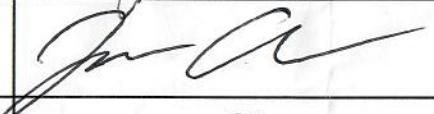
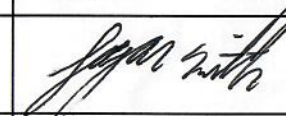
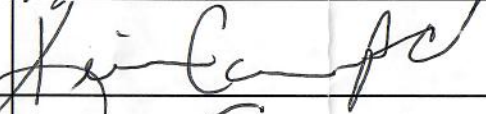
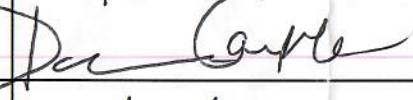
TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Community Support Petition

Number	Name	Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
81.	Sauke Hull	Gance Hull	Monterey / Putnam	9-12-26
82.	Sandra Lynn	Sandra Lynn	cookeville Putnam	9-12-26
83.	Sylvia Horn		skhorn@tnitech.edu	
84.	Tina Owens	Tina Owens	Putnam	9-12-26
85.	Sarah Clifton	Sarah Clifton	Putnam	9-12-26
86.	Patrick Montgomery	Patrick Montgomery	Putnam	9-12-26
87.	SHARON M. TAYLOR	Sharon M. Taylor	COOKEVILLE JACKSON CTY	9-12-26
88.	Cathy Jackson	Cathy Jackson	Putnam	9-12-26
89.	Kelly Wilken		Arreston	9-12-26
90.	Rebecca Vargason	Rebecca Vargason	Monterey 'Cumberland	9/12/26

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Community Support Petition

Number	Name	Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
1.	Kevin Vargas		Monterey ' Cumberland	9-12-26
2.	Karen Hardy	Karen Hardy	Wilder ' Fentress	9-12-26
3.	Angie Tollison	Angie Tollison	Cookeville ' Putnam	9-12-26
4.	Chris Bednarek	Chris Bednarek	Cookeville ' Putnam	9-12-26
5.	Donna Southern		Cookeville ' Putnam	9-12-26
6.	Sarah Russo	Sarah Russo	Cookeville ' Putnam	9-12-26
7.	Sherry K Johnson	Sherry K Johnson	Cookeville	9-12-26
8.	Michael M Johnson	Michael M Johnson	" " "	9-12-26
9.			"	
10.	Cody Hoville		Cookeville ' Putnam	9/12/26

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Community Support Petition

Number	Name	Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
11.	Joseph K Smith		Cookeville ' Overton	9/11/26
12.	MARIAM BARRON		Cookeville ' Putnam	9/11/26
13.	James Clouse		Albans ' Overton	9-11-26
14.	Erika Campbell	Erika Campbell	Cookeville ' Putnam	9-11-26
15.	Faith Smith	Faith Smith	Baxter ' Putnam	9-11-26
16.	Isabel Mendenhall	Isabel Mendenhall	Baxter ' Putnam	09/11/26
17.	Logan Smith		Baxter ' Putnam	9/11/26
18.	Heira Campbell		Cookeville ' Putnam	9/11/26
19.	Dalton Campbell		Cookeville ' Putnam	9/11/26
20.	Caleb Campbell		Cookeville ' Putnam	9/11/26

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Community Support Petition

Number	Name	Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
31.	Morgan Ferrell	Morgan Ferrell	Livingston, Overton	9-14-26
32.	Tamara Barnett	T Barnett	Cookeville / Putnam	9-14-26
33.	Heather Ribardi	Heather Ribardi	Crossville / Cumberland	9-14-26
34.	Charlotte Cross	Charlotte Cross	Cookeville / Putnam	9-14-26
35.	Linda Youngblood	Linda Youngblood	Silver City / Putnam	9-14-26
36.	Angela Urban	Angela Urban	Pelham / Clay	9-14-26
37.	Janella Montgomery	Janella Montgomery	Cookeville / Putnam	9/14/26
38.	Julie Ward	Julie Ward	" / "	9/14/26
39.	Hydra Kee	Hydra Kee	Cookeville / Putnam	9/14/26
40.	Shannon Lundstrom	Shannon Lundstrom	Sparks / White	9/14/26

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Community Support Petition

Number	Name	Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
41.	Patricia Underwood	Patricia Underwood	Baxter TN / Putnam	9-14-26
42.	Duane Underwood	Duane Underwood	Baxter, TN / Putnam	9-14-26
43.	Kim Steneipher	Kim Steneipher	Cookeville TN Overton	9-14-26
44.	Frank Abbateamarco	Frank Abbateamarco	Cookeville TN Putnam	9/14/26
45.	Elaine Potter	Elaine Potter	Cookeville TN/ Putnam	9/14/26
46.	Hailey Carr	Hailey Carr	Cookeville TN/ Putnam	9/14/26
47.	Hannah McCormick	Hannah McCormick	Cookeville TN Putnam	9/14/26
48.	Wendie King	Wendie King	Gainesboro / Jackson	9/14/26
49.	Holly Norrod	Holly Norrod	Cookeville / Putnam	9/14/26
50.	Tamara Copeland	Tamara Copeland	Linton / Overton	09/14/26

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Community Support Petition

Number	Name	Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
51.	Amber Betcher	<i>A. Betcher</i>	cookeville / putnam	9/14/20
52.	Brandy Walker	<i>Brandy Walker</i>	Baxter ' Putnam	9/14/26
53.	Melinda Riley	<i>Melinda Riley</i>	Overton ' County	9/14/26
54.	Amber Charter	<i>Amber Charter</i>	Sparta white County	9.14.20
55.	Megan Long	<i>M Long</i>	Baxter ' Putnam	9.14.26
56.	Kelsee Hartung	<i>Kelsee Hartung</i>	Silver Point ' Putnam	9-14-26
57.	Mikayla Kelly	<i>Mikayla Kelly</i>	Cookeville ' Putnam	9/14/20
58.	Amy Brogans	<i>Amy Brogans</i>	Cookeville ' Putnam	9-14-26
59.	Jessie Cross	<i>Jessie Cross</i>	Cookeville ' Putnam	9-14-26
60.			/	



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

Re: Support for Certificate of Need Application – TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017)

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a patient of TN Heart, I am signing this petition to support its plan to open an outpatient heart surgery center in Cookeville, Tennessee. This center would be the first of its kind in the Upper Cumberland area and would give patients like me a new option for heart care close to home.

Getting good heart care matters to patients and families in the Upper Cumberland. Heart disease is the number one cause of death in Tennessee, and rates in our area are higher than the state and national averages. Many of us live in rural areas far from hospitals that offer heart procedures. When patients have to wait weeks or months for care or drive long distances to get it, their health can suffer. TN Heart's new center would help patients get the care they need sooner and closer to home.

Right now, there is no outpatient heart surgery center in our area. If patients need a heart procedure, they have to go to a hospital—often in Nashville or Knoxville, which can be 80 miles away or more. This means longer wait times, higher costs, and a lot of travel for people who may already not feel well. Some patients put off getting care because it is too hard to get to. Having an outpatient option nearby would mean shorter waits, lower costs, and less time away from home and family for me and many other patients in the Upper Cumberland.

I trust the TN Heart team with my care. They have been taking care of patients in the Upper Cumberland for more than thirty years. Their doctors and staff are part of our community, and they understand how important it is for patients to get good heart care without having to travel far from home. I ask the Tennessee Health Facilities Commission to approve TN Heart's application so that patients in our area can have better access to the heart care we need.

Sincerely,

TN Heart Patients

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Patient Support Petition

Number	Patient Name	Patient Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
1.	Diana Kennedy	Diana Kennedy	Cookeville' Putnam	9/12/26
2.	Michael Rasmussen	Michael Rasmussen	Cookeville ' Putnam	9/12/26
3.	Clara Louise Dennis	Clara Louise Dennis	Livingston ' Overton	9/12/26
4.	Hopet Matthews	Hopet Matthews	Livingston ' Overton	9/12/26
5.	Danny Williams	Danny Williams	Gordons ' Smith	9/12/26
6.	Ann Lankford	Ann Lankford	Putnam'	9-12-26
7.	Renee (FVA) Hawkins	Renee Hawkins	Putnam'	9-12-26
8.	Rebecca Perez	Rebecca Perez	Putnam'	9-12-26
9.	Helen Stafford	Helen Stafford	White'	9-12-26
10.	Andy Stafford	Andy Stafford	White'	9-12-26

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Patient Support Petition

Number	Patient Name	Patient Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
11.	Cain, Shaffer	Cain Shaffer	Rockeville' Putnam	
12.	Rab'o Wood	Rab'o Wood	Cookeville' Putnam	
13.	Carolyn Brown	Carolyn Brown	Cookeville' Davidson	9-12-26
14.	Clarence Carr	Clarence Carr	Cookeville' Putnam	9/12/26
15.	Elizabeth Morris	Elizabeth Morris	Cookeville' Putnam	9-12-26
16.	Sabrina Elam	Sabrina Elam	Baxter' Putnam	9/12/26
17.	Donna Vize	Donna Vize	M'boro' Rutherford	
18.	Greg Liko	Greg Liko	Cookeville'	9/12/26
19.	Mary Crawford	Mary Crawford	GAINESBORO TN	9/12/26
20.	Jeri Hueston	Jeri Hueston	Cookeville TN	9/12/26

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Patient Support Petition

Number	Patient Name	Patient Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
21.	Reg & Bob Dever	Reg & Bob Dever	Cookeville TN	9/14/20
22.	Clifford Johnson	Cliff Johnson	Hampshire	9/14/20
23.	Raymond	Raymond	Cookeville Tenn	-
24.	Michael Rye			
25.	Hunter Zanardi	Hunter J. Zanardi	Cookeville Putnam	9-12-2020
26.	Chris A. Winningham	Chris W		
27.	Kaitlyn Hull	Kaitlyn Hull	Cookeville Putnam	
28.	Michael Lynn	Mr	Cookeville Putnam	9-12
29.	Rodney Mathis	Rodney Mathis	Double Springs Putnam	9-12
30.	Troy D Hardy	Troy D Hardy	Wildes, Fentress	9/12

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Patient Support Petition

Number	Patient Name	Patient Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
31.	STEVE BEDNARCIC	Steve Bednarcic	COOKVILLE	9-12-26
32.	Bianca Harvile	Bianca Harvile	Cookeville	9/12/26
33.	Lisa Wilson	Lisa Wilson	Sparta TN	9/12/26
34.	JEFF HAYES	Jeff Hayes	PUTNAM TN	9/12/26
35.	Jonathan Phillips	Jonathan Phillips	Cookeville TN	9/12/26
36.	Rick Brown	Rick Brown	Cookeville TN	9/12/26
37.	Richard A. Barker	Richard Barker	Cookeville	9-12-26
38.	Mitchell Stineciple	Mitchell Stineciple	Cookeville Overton	9-14-26
39.	Kim Stineciple	Kim Stineciple	Cookeville Overton	9-14-26
40.	Victoria Smith	Victoria Smith	Cookeville Overton	9-14-26

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Patient Support Petition

Number	Patient Name	Patient Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
41.	Randy L. Cherry	Randy L. Cherry	Sparta / White	9-15-26
42.	ROSALBA CHERRY	Rosalba Cherry	Sparta / White	9-15-26
43.			/	
44.			/	
45.			/	
46.			/	
47.			/	
48.			/	
49.			/	
50.			/	

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Patient Support Petition

Number	Patient Name	Patient Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
51.	Hebert CASE	<i>[Signature]</i>	Cookeville / Putnam	9/14/21
52.	Melinda Riley	Melinda Riley	Overton / Henry	9/14/21
53.	Dana Custardo	D. Custardo	Sparta / White	9/14/21
54.			/	
55.			/	
56.			/	
57.			/	
58.			/	
59.			/	
60.			/	

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Patient Support Petition

Number	Patient Name	Patient Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
51.	Eugene T Roberson Jr	EUGENE T ROBERSON JR	ALGOOD / PUTNAM	09/11/26
52.			/	
53.			/	
54.			/	
55.			/	
56.			/	
57.			/	
58.			/	
59.			/	
60.			/	

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Patient Support Petition

Number	Patient Name	Patient Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
61.	Jonathan Mercer	<i>Jonathan Mercer</i>	Cookeville, Putnam	9-11-26
62.	Robert Halfacre	<i>R. Halfacre</i>	Baxter, Putnam	9/11/2026
63.	Robert Lockhart	<i>R. Lockhart</i>	Crossville, Cumberland	9/11/26
64.			/	
65.			/	
66.			/	
67.			/	
68.			/	
69.			/	
70.			/	

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Patient Support Petition

Number	Patient Name	Patient Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
71.	Rodney Thibeau	Rodney Thibeau	233 Shiloh Rd Crawford TN 38554	9-14-26
72.	Linda Thibeau	Linda Thibeau	233 Shiloh Rd Crawford TN 38554	9-14-26
* 73.	MARY Jo Grantham-Dorsey	Mary Jo Dorsey	Crossville, TN 38555	9-14-26
74.	Phil Ballen	Phil Ballen	1004 ORKILL RICKMAN, TN. 38580	9-14-26
75.	Amy McCoy	Amy McCoy	1292 Weep Lodge Hwy Sunbright, TN. 37812	9-14-26
76.	Tracy Slayton	Tracy Slayton	3586 Jim Garrett Rd Montrey TN 38574	9-14-26
77.	Dan Alvey	Dan Alvey	23831 SR 30 Spencer TN 38585	9-14-26
78.	Kevin F. Gillis	[Signature]	525 Woodchiff Rd Monterey, TN 38574	9/14/26
79.	James Bryant	James Bryant	316 Will Thompson Rd Sparta TN.	9/14/26
80.	James Bryant	James Bryant	316 Will Thompson Sparta, TN 38583	9/14/26

TN Heart Cardiovascular Surgery Center, LLC (CN2607-017) – Patient Support Petition

Number	Patient Name	Patient Signature	City / County of Residence	Date
91.	Jennifer Farmer	Jennifer Farmer	Cookeville, Putnam	9/11/26
92.	Daryl Farmer	Daryl Farmer	Cookeville, Putnam	9/11/26
93.	Erica Farmer	Erica Farmer	Cookeville, Putnam	9/11/26
94.	Marni Jones	Marni B. Jones	Cookeville, Putnam	9/11/26
95.	Donna Jones	Donna J. Jones	Cookeville, Putnam	9/11/26
96.			/	
97			/	
98			/	
99.			/	