



February 12, 2024

Governor Bill Lee
600 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
TN State Capitol First Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Tennessee General Assembly
Cordell Hull Building
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N.
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Lee and Members of the 113th General Assembly,

We represent healthcare providers, practitioners, patients and taxpayers across Tennessee, and we stand united in our commitment to expanding access to affordable, high-quality healthcare across the Volunteer State.

With that commitment in mind, we believe Tennessee's Certificate of Need (CON) laws are a primary factor slowing the necessary expansion of healthcare services in the state, as they actively limit access to affordable, high-quality care.

Accordingly, we believe repeal of Tennessee's CON laws is a necessary and critical step towards ensuring increased access to care, and we encourage Tennessee's leaders to work together during this legislative session to pass comprehensive, common-sense legislation accomplishing that goal.

In contrast, failure to act will only perpetuate negative healthcare outcomes for Tennessee patients. Tennessee continues to experience significant population growth and we must ensure the state's healthcare system can keep pace. Currently, underserved communities already experience decreased access to care and lack of critical services, a status quo that shouldn't be allowed to persist.

To be clear, we commend Governor Lee and the State Legislature for passing CON reforms in 2021 that allowed our healthcare system and infrastructure to better respond to community needs. The state's remaining CON regulations, however, continue to limit patients' access to care.

Many states across the nation, including some of our neighbors in states like South Carolina, Florida and others, have already recognized the harmful effects of CON laws and have repealed them with noticeable benefits.

From Memphis to Mountain City, our citizens deserve a healthcare system that similarly seeks to provide greater access to the quality health care Tennesseans need to get healthy and stay healthy.

We appreciate your continued efforts to address this very important issue in Tennessee, and ask the General Assembly to take action during the current session to repeal Tennessee's remaining CON laws. Doing so will go a long way in helping to facilitate increased access to high-quality, affordable health care for all citizens across the state.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Mazzella
President
Center for Individual Freedom

Justin Owen
President & CEO
Beacon Center of Tennessee

Mitch Edgeworth
President
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