**Heather Skeens, MBA**
Assistant County Manager
Acting Health Director

**Tamra Morris, MPH**
Deputy Health Director

CUMBERLAND COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

Department of Public Health

March 17, 2026

**The Honorable David Rouzer**

U.S. House of Representatives

2333 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman, Rouzer:

On behalf of the Cumberland County Health Department and the Cumberland County Board of Health, I write in strong support of Cape Fear Valley Health's proposal to purchase advanced medical and training equipment. As Deputy Health Director , I have a clear view of our residents' needs and the critical role physician training plays in meeting them for years to come.

Cape Fear Valley Health's physician residency program is one of our most important tools for addressing this shortage at its root. Residents who train here gain firsthand experience with the health challenges our population faces — chronic disease, limited health literacy, and barriers to specialty access — and are far more likely to remain here to practice.

The proposed equipment will directly enhance residency training quality. Residents who learn on modern, high-caliber tools develop clinical competencies that improve patient outcomes and prepare them to meet our community's full range of needs. Investing in Cape Fear Valley Health's training infrastructure is among the highest-leverage steps we can take to strengthen our regional health care workforce.

The Methodist University Cape Fear Valley Health School of Medicine adds further importance to this investment. Medical students training alongside residents — on the same advanced equipment, caring for patients across our nine-county region — will graduate with a deep understanding of rural and underserved health care.

I respectfully urge your support for this proposal and thank you for your continued commitment to the health and well-being of the people of Southeastern North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Tamra Morris

**Tamra Morris, MPH**

Deputy Health Director, Cumberland County Health Department

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*Clerk to the Board*

IVA CLARK
*Deputy Clerk*

March 17, 2026

The Honorable David Rouzer
United States House of Representatives
2333 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rouzer,

On behalf of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, I write to express our strong support for Cape Fear Valley Health's proposal to purchase medical and training equipment that will transform health care delivery across Southeastern North Carolina.

Cumberland County is home to nearly 340,000 residents, and the Board of Commissioners is responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of this community. Cape Fear Valley Health is the anchor institution of our regional health care system — serving patients from an expansive nine-county region of Southeastern North Carolina, including many communities where access to specialty care is severely limited.

This equipment will serve a dual purpose: providing direct patient care while simultaneously training physician residents and medical students. The ability to train physicians on state-of-the-art equipment is essential to producing clinicians prepared to serve our region's most complex medical needs — and those who train here are far more likely to remain and practice here.

We are particularly enthusiastic about what this means for the Methodist University Cape Fear Valley Health School of Medicine. A locally trained physician pipeline is among the most effective strategies for addressing the physician shortage in rural Southeastern North Carolina, meaning better health outcomes for our residents for decades to come.

We respectfully urge your support for this proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact my office for additional information.

Sincerely,

Kirk J. deViere, Chairman
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

FAYETTEVILLE NC
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

March 18, 2026

The Honorable David Rouzer
2333 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rouzer,

As Mayor of Fayetteville, I am proud to offer my enthusiastic support for Cape Fear Valley Health's proposal to purchase state-of-the-art medical equipment for the benefit of patients and physician trainees throughout our region.

Cape Fear Valley Health is the lifeblood of our community's health care infrastructure, serving patients from a nine-county footprint across Southeastern North Carolina, a region with significant rural and medically underserved communities. When neighbors cannot find specialty care close to home, they turn to Cape Fear Valley Health, a responsibility this institution has consistently met with dedication and professionalism.

This investment is about more than treating patients today, it is about the future of medicine in our region. Cape Fear Valley Health's physician residency program directly addresses the physician shortage threatening rural North Carolina. Residents who train here develop roots here and, crucially, many choose to stay and practice here. Modern equipment will enhance both patient care and the caliber of that training experience.

I am deeply excited about what this means for the Methodist University Cape Fear Valley Health School of Medicine. Ensuring medical students have access to leading-edge equipment is essential to attracting future physicians to our region. The synergy between residency training and medical education creates a powerful multiplier effect that will strengthen health care across Southeastern North Carolina for generations.

Cape Fear Valley Health has been a model community partner — collaborative, committed, and worthy of this investment. I urge you, Congressman Rouzer, to lend your support to this proposal on behalf of our patients, our trainees, and our community.

Sincerely,

Mitch Colvin
Mayor
City of Fayetteville, NC

# METHODIST UNIVERSITY

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 17, 2026

**The Honorable David Rouzer**
U.S. House of Representatives
2333 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rouzer:

I write with great enthusiasm in support of Cape Fear Valley Health's proposal— an initiative with profound implications for medical education, physician workforce development, and patient care across Southeastern North Carolina.

The establishment of the Methodist University Cape Fear Valley Health School of Medicine is the most consequential development in our institution's history, and a direct response to the urgent physician shortage in rural and underserved communities throughout our region. Our partnership with Cape Fear Valley Health reflects a shared mission to transform health care in an area that has too long been underserved.

Access to modern medical equipment is not a luxury — it is a necessity. Students and residents who train on advanced technology develop proficiencies that translate directly into better patient outcomes. The equipment Cape Fear Valley Health seeks will be used simultaneously for patient care and hands-on training — an integrated model where learning happens with the same tools clinicians use every day.

Cape Fear Valley Health's nine-county service area encompasses a population with significant health disparities and limited specialty access. Research consistently demonstrates that physicians who train in underserved settings are more likely to practice there. This investment is ultimately about building the health care workforce that Southeastern North Carolina will depend on for decades to come.

Cape Fear Valley Health has been an exemplary academic partner — collaborative, mission-driven, and committed to serving populations who have historically lacked access to quality care. I respectfully encourage your support for this proposal.

Respectfully,

**Stanley T. Wearden, Ph.D.**
President, Methodist University

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