



March 11, 2025

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 114th General Assembly:

As representatives of patients, healthcare providers, and taxpayers across Tennessee, we are committed to promoting a public policy climate that expands access to affordable, high-quality health care across the Volunteer State.

We strongly believe Tennessee's remaining Certificate of Need (CON) laws continue to significantly slow the necessary expansion of healthcare services across the state – limiting access to affordable, high-quality care, including by preventing the building of new hospitals in communities that need them.

Repealing Tennessee's remaining CON laws is essential for increasing access to care. We therefore urge Tennessee's leaders to fully repeal the state's remaining CON laws during the current legislative session.

Tennessee is experiencing significant population growth, and it's vital that the state's healthcare system keeps pace. Currently, underserved communities already face reduced access to care and a lack of critical services, which cannot be allowed to persist.

Many of us expressed our views on the need to repeal Tennessee's CON laws during the 113th General Assembly. Ultimately, lawmakers passed productive reforms that phase out Tennessee's CON requirements for certain freestanding emergency departments, ambulatory surgery centers, and MRI services, among other essential healthcare disciplines. While we commend the General Assembly and Governor Lee for those reforms, Tennessee's remaining CON regulations still serve as unnecessary barriers to care.

Many states across the country, including South Carolina and Florida, have already acknowledged the detrimental effects of CON laws and have repealed them, resulting in noticeable benefits. Just two years after implementing a comprehensive repeal, South Carolina has experienced a massive investment in healthcare infrastructure and a significant increase in access to care.

We appreciate the ongoing efforts to address this vital issue in Tennessee and urge the General Assembly to move immediately to repeal the state's remaining CON laws.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Mazzella
President
Center for Individual Freedom

Justin Owen
CEO
Beacon Impact

Gerard Scimeca
Chairman
Consumer Action for a Strong Economy

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