



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES INSTITUTE

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has one of the highest incidence rates of advanced cardiovascular-related diseases in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has the fourth highest death rate from stroke related illness in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has the fifteenth highest death rate from cardiac illnesses in the nation; and

WHEREAS, cardiovascular diseases cause about one of four deaths each year in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has one of the top eleven rates of premature mortality in the nation; and

WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of hospital admissions in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in the State of North Carolina, stroke causes eight percent of all deaths each year; and

WHEREAS, cardiovascular-related illness occurs in higher rates in eastern North Carolina than in other regions of the state; and

WHEREAS, if the area of eastern North Carolina were considered a state, it would have one of the two highest rates of premature mortality in the nation; and

WHEREAS, compared to the rest of the state, people in eastern North Carolina die earlier than expected with 23 percent mortality due to heart disease; and

WHEREAS, compared to the rest of the state, citizens in eastern North Carolina have a 35 percent premature mortality rate due to stroke and stroke-related illness; and

WHEREAS, there is an untold economic impact of cardiovascular disease, including stroke, on the State of North Carolina and particularly in eastern North Carolina, due to loss of work, a diminished workforce, a rise in health insurance costs, and costs to the state for health care of the uninsured; and

WHEREAS, the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, Pitt County Memorial Hospital and the University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina are the major health providers in eastern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the collaborative partnership among these institutions desires to advance cardiovascular science and the provision of cardiovascular disease services for the people of North Carolina by establishing a state-of-the-art center dedicated to clinical, educational, and research activities related to cardiovascular disease headed by the internationally recognized physician Dr. Randolph W. Chitwood, Jr., who has led the

country in his research in robotic and minimally invasive cardio-thoracic surgery; and

WHEREAS, Pitt County Memorial Hospital and the Brody School of Medicine have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to bind the parties to establish this Center and to carry on this research and treatment of persons afflicted with cardiovascular disease, particularly the citizens of the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, financial support and assistance from the State of North Carolina is critical to achieve this goal of support which will inure to the benefit of all the citizens and, hopefully, by prevention and cure, will lessen the financial strain on the State presently required to deal with the effects of cardiovascular disease in the State of North Carolina and in eastern North Carolina in particular.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce requests that all consideration be given to the establishment of the North Carolina Cardiovascular Diseases Institute and that appropriate necessary funding from the State of North Carolina be forthcoming to support this comprehensive center to be located in Greenville, Pitt County, North Carolina for the use and benefit of all the people of North Carolina.

Adopted this 28th day of August, 2003



Don Mills, Chairman
Board of Directors



Susanne D. Sartelle, CCE
President