

Petition for a Freestanding Emergency Room For South Lee County

WE THE UNDERSIGNED CONCERNED CITIZENS OF SOUTH LEE COUNTY DO HEREBY REQUEST THAT THE MORATORIUM ON FREESTANDING EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS (FEDs) BE ALLOWED TO EXPIRE AS SCHEDULED ON JUNE 30, 2006.

Licensure oversight must be established by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, (AHCA) to protect patient safety, establish drive times, and require that sponsoring local hospitals maintain a fully operational Emergency Room on the hospital campus.

- The distance to the nearest hospital is over 13 miles from the center of Estero in south Lee County with drive times up to 45 minutes in seasonal traffic, placing patients in jeopardy.
- According to the AHCA report on Freestanding Emergency Departments, the two current FEDs in Florida established prior to the moratorium have operated without complaints or adverse incidents, demonstrating that quality emergency services can be provided in an offsite setting.
- The same AHCA report concluded that it is in the public interest to allow hospitals in communities with high growth areas remote from all hospitals, like south Lee County, to develop FEDs.
- Finally, FEDs are operating successfully in several other states.

Name	Address	Community

Return to Estero Council of Community Leaders
Post Office Box 424
Estero, Florida 33928

