

RESOLUTION

Subject: Location of the New Louisville Regional  
Veterans Administration Medical Center  
Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society  
Referred to: Reference Committee

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WHEREAS, the Veterans Administration has proposed to build a new Hospital in Louisville; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Administration has purchased land near the junction of the Watterson Expressway and Brownsboro Road, known as the Midlands, as a proposed building site for the proposed VA Hospital; and

WHEREAS, with the closing of the Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) the Midlands location is even further away from most of the veterans using the CBOC; and

WHEREAS, the geographic isolation of the VA Hospital from the downtown medical center and medical school impairs the availability of physicians, including specialized physicians, to provide services to the veterans; and

WHEREAS, all veterans suffering from stroke, or requiring invasive cardiac care, are transported to other hospitals for that care and transport times can be critical to the outcome for veterans; and

WHEREAS, inpatient transfers from the current VA Hospital to downtown hospitals numbers in the hundreds every year (2011–470, 2012–423, 2013 to July 19–325); and

WHEREAS, the current VA Hospital relies on downtown hospitals for routine services during times of equipment failure, until replacement of faulty equipment, such as the failure of the autoclave that resulted in transfer of all elective surgery cases until it was replaced in 2012; and

WHEREAS, most VA Hospitals are located in downtown urban settings close to university hospitals including Atlanta (Emory), Cincinnati (Univ. of Cincinnati), Indianapolis (Indiana Univ.), Nashville (Vanderbilt Univ.), Lexington (Univ. of Kentucky), Memphis (Univ. of Tenn., Memphis), St. Louis (St. Louis Univ., Washington Univ.), East Tennessee (East Tennessee State Univ.), Cleveland (Case Western Univ.), Baltimore (Univ. of Baltimore), Boston (Boston Univ., Harvard), Houston (Baylor Univ.), Chicago (Northwestern Univ.), Philadelphia (Univ. of Pennsylvania); and

WHEREAS, personnel and support services for Veterans are more accessible, and more likely to positively impact the health and quality of life of Veterans at a downtown location; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Kentucky Medical Association opposes the selected Midlands location for construction of a new Louisville Region VA Medical Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Kentucky Medical Association supports a location in close proximity to the University of Louisville Medical Center for the proposed VA hospital.