



PRESS RELEASE

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN TORBETT

108 House District

Phone Number: 919-733-5868

Room 537, LOB

North Carolina House of Representatives

Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 26, 2011

NC Speaker of the House Thom Tillis today appointed Rep. Fred Steen (Rowan) and Rep. John Torbett (Gaston) to lead the newly formed House Select Committee on Certificate of Need (CON) and Hospital Related Issues.

North Carolina's Certificate of Need law sets the conditions for the construction or addition of health care service facilities in the state, this committee will be charged with studying the effectiveness and impact of this legislation.

"With the rapid growth of health care as a sector in our economy and the coming changes to the industry because of the federal Health Care Reform Act, now is a good time to examine this crucial law affecting access and cost to health care in North Carolina," said Speaker of the House Thom Tillis. "I have great faith in Rep. Steen and Rep. Torbett and all members of the committee to thoroughly examine all components of health care delivery in our state to ensure government is playing the proper role."

"I appreciate Speaker Tillis entrusting Rep. Torbett and me with this important responsibility," said Rep. Steen. "The Committee will focus on whether the current system efficiently promotes access to quality health care for citizens of North Carolina. The recent review by the state concerning its COPA agreement has raised numerous questions that require legislative review. This Committee will also examine the existing regulatory structure to ensure fairness and transparency in the CON process for all health care providers."

"I am honored to accept the position of Co-Chair with Representative Steen and feel that this committee is charged with an important task in the very uncertain future of Health Care delivery," stated Torbett. "I know the members of this committee will meticulously examine the issues and promote positive outcomes for fellow North Carolinians and their Health Care providers."

The Committee is charged with studying the law and process for issuing a Certificate of Need for new construction, expansion, or renovation of health care facilities and related issues involving hospital expansion.

Including the following:

(1) The legal requirements and process governing Department of Health and Human Services determinations on applications for CON, including an analysis of exceptions granted under policy AC-3 of the State Medical Facilities Plan as implemented by the Department of Health and Human Services.

(2) Issues relating to publicly owned hospitals, including determining the appropriate role of State-owned hospitals and the appropriate manner for public hospital authorities created under G.S. 131E-17 to operate beyond the boundaries of the local government that created the authority. (3) Whether a hospital operating under a Certificate of Public Advantage (COPA) should be required to comply with the same rules, policies, and limitations to each 13 counties in which it operates.

(4) The extent to which a publicly owned hospital should engage in business with an entity having a Certificate of Public Advantage or operating under an exemption under the CON laws of the State.

(5) Any other matter reasonably related to subdivisions (1) through (4) of this section, in the discretion of the Committee.

Other members of the committee are: Rep. Martha Alexander (Mecklenburg), Rep. Marilyn Avila (Wake), Rep. James Boles Jr. (Moore), Rep. Marcus Brandon (Guilford), Rep. Jeff Collins (Nash), Rep. William A. Current Sr. (Gaston), Rep. Rick Glazier (Cumberland), Rep. Mark Hollo (Alexander, Catawba), and Rep. Shirley Randleman (Wilkes)