

May 15, 2018

To whom it may concern:

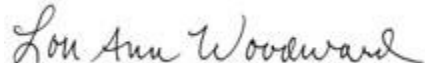
The development of the Mississippi Center for Medically Fragile Children is well underway, and I would like to both express my support for the project and explain its importance to the University of Mississippi Medical Center and Children's of Mississippi.

The Mississippi Center for Medically Fragile Children will offer transitional care in a home-like setting for children who are medically able to leave the hospital but not yet able to return home. This facility will meet a great need in our state since there is currently not a facility in the state to take care of long-term, chronically ill children. Many of these patients now stay in Batson Children's Hospital on our campus, sometimes for years, which was not designed for this type of care. Sometimes they are admitted to a transitional care facility out of state far away from their families.

Soon, the Mississippi Center for Medically Fragile Children will give us a new resource right here at home. It was designed especially for this group of patients after researching and visiting similar facilities in other states. Nurses, respiratory therapists, child life, specialists, and other caregivers from Batson Children's Hospital weighed in on the best way to care for these patients. The new facility will provide the children to have living space, a kitchen, class room, therapy space, and even outdoor space. The rooms are also designed to accommodate family and caregivers to comfortably stay with the child.

This new facility will finally provide a setting where the children can have the best chance to learn, develop, and enjoy life while receiving the appropriate level of care outside of an acute care inpatient hospital setting. We stand ready as a partner to utilize this vital resource.

Sincerely,



LouAnn Woodward, MD  
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and  
Dean, School of Medicine  
University of Mississippi Medical Center