

February 25, 2026

## Media Statement

### *From the Confluence Health Board of Directors*

Our mission at Confluence Health is clear: to serve the people of North Central Washington (NCW) with independent, high-quality care. Physicians, and the care they provide, are essential to that mission.

Recently, former Confluence Health executives and leaders from Wenatchee Valley Medical Group (WVMG), a physician organization contracted to provide clinical services for Confluence Health, have publicly criticized CEO Dr. Andrew Jones and strategic initiatives approved by the Board. They failed to present an accurate and complete picture to the public.

We owe it to our community, and to the future of healthcare access in this region, to set the record straight and be transparent about what is happening.

It is important first to clarify the relationship between Confluence Health and WVMG, and how this affects our community:

- Confluence Health is a nonprofit organization committed to protecting access to exceptional, locally operated care. Physicians and physician groups are an essential part of our ability to deliver on our mission.
- Confluence Health provides healthcare to the residents of NCW and employs the care teams that make this possible: non-physician providers, caregivers, and support staff.
- WVMG is an independent, for-profit physician organization which contracts with Confluence Health to provide physician services to our patients.
- Confluence Health is governed by a volunteer board comprised of community members and physicians, and all physician board members are WVMG shareholders. A separate board of directors oversees WVMG, independent of Confluence Health.
- WVMG does not represent all physicians that serve patients at Confluence Health.

- WVMG owns property that is leased to Confluence Health, including the Mares Campus, which currently houses some cancer care services. Confluence Health pays WVMG for occupancy of its buildings.

These facts provide important context for the concerns raised by WVMG leaders regarding Dr. Jones' leadership and the Board's selected location for the new cancer center. In 2024, the Confluence Health Board, including the WVMG members, unanimously approved construction of a new cancer center to meet growing demand, expand advanced technology, and ensure the long-term sustainability of cancer services in our region.

Our current cancer services provided at the WVMG-owned Mares Campus are not sufficient to meet future patient demand. This aging facility does not have the infrastructure to support or deliver the experience our patients and staff deserve. After a thorough strategic planning process, the Board chose to site the new cancer center at our Central Campus to best serve our patients.

Had the new cancer center been housed at the Mares Campus, WVMG would benefit financially from a long-term lease. WVMG raised concerns about a new cancer center only after the Board determined Mares was insufficient and selected Central as the site.

Because WVMG has a financial interest in the Mares Campus the Board has a fiduciary obligation to evaluate site decisions independently of that interest. As stewards of a community-based nonprofit, we must ensure that major capital investments **are guided by long-term benefits to patients, our community, and the sustainability of the health system.**

Healthcare has changed significantly in recent years. The financial and operational realities facing independent health systems today are far different than they were even five years ago. **What worked in the past will not secure our future.** Preserving access to care in this region requires strategic investment and thoughtful leadership.

While change can be difficult, it is essential to ensure we can continue to serve our community for decades to come. In an open letter, former Confluence Health leadership raised concerns about Dr. Jones' leadership of our healthcare system, referencing criticism sent to the Board from WVMG leadership in October 2025. The Board took these concerns seriously and conducted a thorough review. The review included interviews of Confluence Health and WVMG personnel, consideration of data and information shared by dozens of stakeholders, and an assessment of Confluence's financial performance under Dr. Jones' leadership. Following the review, the Board concluded there were no grounds to remove Dr. Jones as Confluence Health's CEO. Additionally, several community members

of the Board believe Dr. Jones' leadership and vision are critical to the future of healthcare in this region.

Since taking over as CEO, Dr. Jones has greatly improved Confluence Health's finances in challenging economic times when many health systems are operating at a loss. He has implemented meaningful improvements in access to care and demonstrably enhanced both patient and physician satisfaction, [receiving national recognition for this work](#). During his tenure, Confluence Health has achieved the highest patient and physician satisfaction scores in more than a decade and is firmly on a path to securing the independence and viability of the healthcare system we all rely on.

We remain committed to fulfilling our duty to this region and want to work cooperatively with WVMG leadership to find a path forward that is rooted in what is best for our community. Confluence Health welcomes an open dialogue with all physicians who serve our community.