To our many friends and colleagues in the Villages:

As physicians we all struggle over decisions that affect the welfare and health of our patients. We all understand our special obligations to all our patients. We at Advanced Urology Institute (AUI) have always tried to bring the best urological care to the community. We have worked to create a Center of Excellence, hopefully unlike any other in the United States, to serve our patients.

As you may be aware, we have many urologists in the Villages service area with very large practices, many of whom are employed by primary or multi-specialty groups in the area. These urologists either have no hospital privileges or have hospital privileges far away from where the patients live. When these urologists perform invasive procedures in their office, or at ambulatory surgery centers in the area, and when those patients have complications, they come to The Villages Regional for treatment. Since the urologist who performed the procedure is not on staff at the hospital, it becomes our responsibility to care for these patients with post-operative complications. When we explain this situation, to our friends and colleagues nationwide and locally they are amazed that we are obligated to leave our own patients in the office and attend to other physicians’ complications.

After asking and receiving advice from many medical legal experts, and after being told by our friends in hospital administration that their "hands are tied," and there was nothing they could do about the situation, we made the tough and soul searching decision that for the well-being of our patients we would have to stop enabling this unfair practice. Our outside advisors, who manage practices throughout the United States clearly felt that by continuing to be on staff at The Villages Regional Hospital, we were allowing this unfair, unreasonable, dangerous, and unethical practice to continue. We, as a group, realize this was not fair to our patients because often times we could not safely or physically cover our patient's needs.

**For these reasons, we will be resigning our privileges at TVRH effective November 1, 2016**

The urologists of the Advanced Urology Institute (AUI) have been committed to the Villages area since the community was called “Orange Blossom Gardens.” We have collectively been providing urological services to the residents of the community for over 30 years and have been on staff at The Villages Regional Hospital (TVRH) since the doors opened. This was not an easy decision for us.

We are proud of our group of urologists and of the center we have built. Our vision has always been to provide a true Center of Excellence. Our group strives to put our patients first. We represent a diverse group with many different faith traditions, and we feel strongly that the moral and ethical course demands us to do what is fair and safe and sustainable for our patients.

We all will maintain full urological privileges at well-respected area hospitals.

We will continue to provide the best of urological care.

We will always put the patient first and manage our own complications.

We will continue to do everything possible to make our center a center of excellence.

Thanking you for your support,

The Urologists of the Advanced Urology Institute