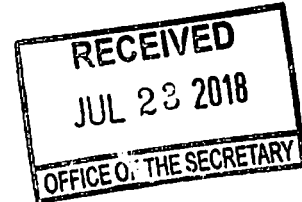


July 16, 2018

Mr. Brent J. Fields
Secretary
U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street NE
Washington, DC 20549



Re: Transaction Fee Pilot for NMS Stocks, Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82873 (March 14, 2018), 83 FR 13008 (March 26, 2018) (File No. S7-05-18)

Dear Mr. Fields,

We are writing to express our concerns with The Securities and Exchange Commission's (the "Commission") recently proposed "Transaction Fee Pilot" program intended to examine the inner workings of broker routing behavior and to request that National HealthCare Corporation ("NHC") (NYSE-American: NHC) be excluded from the pilot test groups.

As an NYSE listed company, NHC has received and reviewed a copy of the comment letter provided to you by Elizabeth K. King, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, NYSE Group, Inc., dated May 31, 2018. We urge the Commission to thoughtfully consider the concerns raised by the NYSE, specifically:

- (1) the potential for bid-ask spreads to widen, resulting in higher costs for issuers conducting a share repurchase program;
- (2) the potential for wider spreads to disadvantage one security versus another due to differing investor transaction costs;
- (3) the pilot would unfairly place transaction-pricing restrictions on national securities exchanges while allowing other market participants to compete free of any such restrictions, and;
- (4) the concern that the pilot, as currently designed to include only national securities changes, would not provide the Commission with usable data to inform the Commission's policymaking on the trading impact of transaction-based fees and rebates.

For these reasons and others detailed by the NYSE, NHC urges the Commission not to adopt the Transaction Fee Pilot.

Furthermore, should the Commission decide to continue with the pilot, for the reasons above, NHC respectfully requests that it be excluded from the proposed test groups (effectively placed in the "control group").

Sincerely,

John M. Lines
SVP/Secretary and General Counsel