

South Central Region sent many signatures from WOCN's attending the conference along with the letter requesting that they reassess their decision to close the MD Anderson WOCNEP. I wrote to all of you after the national WOCN conference regarding the letter that was sent to MD Anderson's CEO and CNO. Here is the response I received 7/22/09 and would like to share it with you.

*Dear Ms. Conwill:*

*Thank you for your letter inquiring about the recent closure of the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing (WOCN) Education Program at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Recent economic conditions have forced us to review all aspects of our operations and make some difficult decisions, including the decision to reduce the number of institutional programs. The WOCN Education program is one example of these difficult decisions and we know this has caused concern.*

*While all programs and activities at MD Anderson have value, we are reducing or eliminating some that are less critical to our mission. Many of the program reductions eliminated services that held intrinsic value, but were deferred in favor of others that were felt to directly contribute to our mission. The nursing leadership team did an exceptional job of evaluating and protecting the most critical core services. When our financial position improves we will have a chance to re-evaluate all programs. At that time consideration to reinstitute the program will be an option open for discussion.*

*I thank you for your inquiry and I appreciate your concerns.*

*Sincerely,*

*Barbara L Summers, PhD, RN, NEA-BC*

*Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer*