



September 13, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Brattleboro Memorial Hospital's request for permission to go forward with their modernization project.

As the Chair of the Board of Director's Quality and Patient Safety Committee, and the Medical Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation, I have been on staff here for many years. I can say that this project is very welcome news. The patients in our community depend on us to offer them safe, appropriate and high quality care. To provide this we need both excellent staff, and excellent facilities. Our facilities have served us well, but need the updating that this project brings.

As Chair of the Board Quality and Patient Safety Committee I am very concerned that our operative patients have every opportunity to have a safe and sterile surgical environment. Our current operating rooms make that an additional challenge above the expected challenge of each patient's surgery. Ability to control the environment in the surgical suites will help us in our goals of providing evidenced based approaches and minimal infection rates for excellent outcomes.

My cardiac rehab patients currently participate in their recovery plan in a cramped basement room that is far undersized for the work that they do. The guidance they need for the kinds of life changes required for full recovery following a cardiac event are difficult to provide in this environment. Ensuring their safety as they restart their activities is paramount, and is a struggle in this current setting. A facility designed to address their needs and create a safe and pleasant environment would be a big win for patients.

As a long time medical staff member of BMH, I am a big believer in its importance in our community. Providing high quality, safe and reliable care to our patients is incredibly important, and up to date facilities help support this goal. Thank you for considering this modernization project request.

In appreciation,

Burton D. Tepfer MD

Chair, Board Quality and Patient Safety Committee
Medical Director of Cardiology Rehabilitation