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Green Mountain Care Board  
89 Main Street, Third Floor,  
City Center Montpelier, Vermont 05620

Dear Members of the Green Mountain Care Board,

I am writing this letter to share my support for granting a Certificate of Need to build an ambulatory surgery center in the greater Burlington area. I previously practiced as a licensed general dentist in Burlington and South Burlington, in both a federally qualified health center and in private practice. Currently, I am completing my first year of a two-year pediatric dental residency in the state of Hawaii, though I plan to return to Vermont at the end of my residency in 2017 to practice as a pediatric dentist.

When I was practicing in Vermont, I regularly encountered two stark barriers to adequate oral health care for our pediatric patients – the youngest and most vulnerable among us. One obstacle was a lack of pediatric dentists in the greater Burlington and Chittenden County area, and the other was a lack of referral sources for Medicaid/Dr. Dynasaur patients who needed to be seen in the operating room for full mouth dental rehabilitation under general anesthesia.

According to an article published in the November/December 2015 issue of *Pediatric Dentistry*, the official publication of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, **Vermont is one of only three states that did not see an increase in the ratio of pediatric dentists in private practice to children under the age of 18 between the years 2000 and 2010.** According to that same article, as of the time of publication the entire state of Vermont had only **seven** pediatric dentists practicing in private practice, which amounts to a meager 0.16% of the total number of pediatric dentists in the United States.

In Vermont we are already facing access to oral health care issues for our pediatric population, particularly those who are uninsured or who do not have private dental insurance. Those pediatric dentists who do bring children to the operating room for dental rehabilitation have extensive waiting lists, and there are additional concerns related to operating room time availability for dental specialists as well as the reality of some providers approaching retirement age.

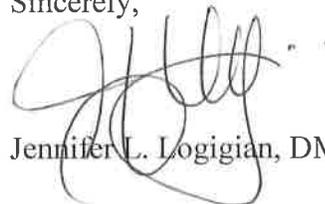
It is not uncommon for young children with extensive dental needs to be seen in the operating room where their treatment can be completed thoroughly, safely and all in one non-traumatizing visit. In many states, both general dentists and specialists successfully utilize ambulatory surgical centers for outpatient procedures to the benefit of the providers and patients. These “surgi-

centers” allow providers to focus completely on the procedure(s) at hand while knowing that specialists in the field of anesthesiology are managing their patient’s vital signs and airway. This limits the likelihood of adverse outcomes that might be seen if conscious sedation is attempted in a clinic or office setting, as well as allows for the completion of all treatment needs in one visit. In this way, simple outpatient procedures that do not require extensive post-operative care unit or intensive care unit stays can be complete efficiently in a surgical care setting. This has the added benefits of freeing up needed time in hospital operating rooms and allowing for more appropriate and tailored care for patients undergoing outpatient procedures in the surgical center setting.

Vermont is a special place, and our patients – particularly our kiddos – deserve access to prompt, safe and affordable health care options. Having an ambulatory surgical center would be an invaluable asset to our community and allow for appropriate delivery of care. It is always challenging to implement something new into an existing, functioning system and there are bound to be people who are opposed to it because of the fear that it may change or disrupt their current practice. However, it is our responsibility as health care providers to ensure that we are always optimizing the level of, and access to, care that our patients deserve. Just because Vermont is a small, generally rural state does not mean that we can allow our health care providers to create monopolies on services – particularly specialist services – to their own benefit. This is especially important to remember when considering the health and well being of Vermont’s children, who cannot advocate for themselves. Providing quality affordable health care options for children is a public health issue that will hopefully contribute to the next generation of healthy Vermonters.

I urge the Board to approve the surgery center’s proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Logigian', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jennifer L. Logigian, DMD, MPH