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Green Mountain Care Board  
89 Main Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3601

Dear Board Members,

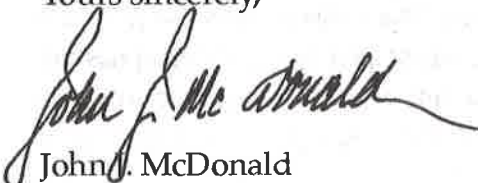
I would like to add my voice and that of my wife to those Vermonters expressing skepticism (at the very least) about what appears to be a long-running attempt by the UVM Medical Center and its affiliated hospitals and physicians' practices to monopolize health care in our state.

In the quarter century that we have lived in Vermont, we have had occasion to seek medical care for three serious situations and two minor matters that involved hospitalizations. In the two most serious cases, the preliminary arrangements by what was then "Fletcher Allen" involved so many delays as well as unpleasant interactions that once we ended up in Boston and once in Pennsylvania. These alternatives were not chosen because UVM lacked the right specialists, but because we could not effectively access these specialists in situations that involved some risk if care were delayed. The moves afforded us a good view of how medical care can and should be organized.

UVM's claim that Vermont does not need further capacity — or competition — in (for example) gastroenterology ring completely hollow for us. Many of our interactions over the years have led to a conviction that UVM NEEDS competition in the worst possible way, in order to improve the care it provides within reasonable time limits and at reasonable prices.

One specific step would be to allow the surgical clinic that is attempting to open in the Burlington area to do so. The account of safety concerns raised by UVM rings hollow in light of the nationwide safe operation of such clinics. Another step: Thoroughly investigate UVM to make sure that qualified doctors are not being denied hospital privileges. Although I don't claim to know the ins and outs of such decisions, I do have first hand knowledge of doctors' practices that have been excluded, which sounds like a move to monopolize not only hospital care in Vermont, but also family physician care.

Yours sincerely,



John J. McDonald