

Green Mountain Care Board
144 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Re: Green Mountain Surgery Center

Dear Board Members;

I write to you today as a concerned citizen. While leaving Costco's the other day I noticed a new building, the Green Mountain Surgery Center. When I got home I sat down to read about it in the Buyers' Digest. Please allow me, as a concerned citizen, to express my views on this subject.

I'm sure you are well aware of the definition of a monopoly. The hospitals in this area seem to have no problem with maintaining and encouraging their monopoly on healthcare. Sadly, this has a profound effect on the vast majority of people/clients. It leaves us with no choice or recourse but to go to their facilities and pay their prices. We also have to wait and are at their mercy for scheduling procedures. I was in need of a spinal injection for pain and was told they were booking out at three months, but they would call me if something came up earlier. Meanwhile, I was able to book it with an independent office and get in, in just over a week.

As a two term, member of the Vermont State Board of Nursing where our job is to protect and serve the public, I would think your job would be the same and therefore allow the public the right of choice and prevent the increase of this monopoly.

Time wise and being affordable, we citizens should have the opportunity to make the best choice we feel for our care and there most definitely needs, and has to be, competition in order to keep the prices more reasonable. Many of us are on fixed incomes while others are just starting out with no nest egg for medical expenses not to mention those with school/college age children.

Mind you, I'm not against the hospitals...they certainly have their place, but I am adamantly against monopolies and feel the people's voices of concern must be heard.

I do appreciate your time and consideration to my letter.

Sincerely,
Ruth W. Woodard