

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

**Name:** Lisa Klefos

**Affiliation:**

**Town/City:** Newport

**Topic:** Act 167 Hospital Sustainability

**Comment:**

Dear board members,

As a resident of Newport, it very much concerns me that you are considering closing North Country Hospital (NCH). First, the report recommending closing NCH is riddled with errors and wrong assumptions and should be viewed as such. Second, NCH's location on the Canadian border hardly makes it appealing as a mental institution for the rest of the state, whose patients and their families will be vastly inconvenienced by its distant location. Most importantly, Newport along with ten other NEK towns desperately need this hospital as our primary care facility. Being recently widowed, I for one, will not travel to Burlington or Dartmouth for my routine mammogram and colonoscopy. Instead, I will forego these basic and necessary annual procedures. Clearly it would be wiser to identify a more centrally-located facility for your proposed mental institution.

Ultimately, the loss of NCH will result in a depression for the city of Newport (which is already struggling), the loss of 600 jobs and a negative impact on the physical health of myself and my neighbors.

There are many ways to skin a deer, so please consider alternative solutions. Thank you for considering my viewpoint on this very important issue.

Lisa Klefos, Newport, VT

**Post Comment:** Yes