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Sent on: Saturday, October 19, 2024 3:52:44 PM

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Subject: Public Comment: Act 167 Community Engagement

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 2024-10-19T15:52:43Z

Name: Markus Vogt

Affiliation: NEK Learning Services

Town/City: Newport

Topic: Community Engagement: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167

Comment: Dear Green Mountain Care Board, I help caring for two senior family members in Newport. One is almost 99-years old, the other turned 101 a few months ago. Over the course of the last 10 years, there have been multiple falls that led to injury including broken bones. Back in September, both of them caught COVID. We needed Paxlovid prescriptions quickly. One of them experienced a rebound that required an emergency room visit and lung x-rays on a weekend. Twice a year, they go/we bring them to see their primary care physician at the health clinic connected to the hospital. The recommendation of the Wyman consulting firm you hired to fix Vermont's health care problems is to essentially shut down all those services we need from our hospital. For our two elders and everyone in similar situations, your decision to follow that recommendation is a matter of life and death. Packing up our elders to go to the emergency room in St. Johnsbury or Burlington is just simply not feasible. In inclement winter weather, they'd essentially be left without adequate and equitable care. (How would those surviving hospitals even have the capacity to help this potential influx of additional patients? What would the wait times be?) A lot of damage has already been done by your decision to make this flawed report and recommendation public. Our hospital's reputation has taken a severe hit by being put on the chopping block. People here in the NEK are angry, and rightfully so. After being forced to take every Vermonter's trash in the only landfill left in the state, to take a large portion of Vermont's incarcerated population, and to live with a hole in downtown Newport the size of a city block in part because of failed state oversight, you are now proposing to shut down our hospital. Why is this even an option? Would you ever consider doing this to Vermonters in Chittenden County? You must not do this, you must reconsider. Please do so quickly and publicly so that the healing can start. Markus Vogt Resident of Newport City, Vermont

Post Comment: Yes