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Sent on: Saturday, October 19, 2024 3:50:38 PM

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Subject: Public Comment: Act 167 Community Engagement

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 2024-10-19T15:50:35Z

Name: Patricia Bennett

Affiliation: None

Town/City: Derby

Topic: Community Engagement: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167

Comment: North country Hospital has serviced the citizens of Orleans County and Essex County for years. It also has serviced people that visit our state spend money in our state and to close or repurpose this hospital is going to be detrimental to the health and welfare of the citizens of Vermont and of the Citizens that visit our state. There is a prison that utilizes this hospital almost on a daily basis, which is a 15 minute drive as opposed to over an hour and 15 minutes one way. The cost of transporting these individuals and then the cost of something happening because the hospital wasn't close enough could almost bankrupt the state of Vermont. You Have multiple schools that utilize this hospital if there's an emergency, where are they going to go? You have a ski area that utilizes this hospital? Where are they going to receive care in a timely manner? Orleans and Essex County are remote, counties and count on this hospital for Care This decision is putting the welfare of the patient on the back burner Transportation is huge in the Northeast kingdom and the impact on the patient when their loved ones can't visit them because they can't travel that long and left alone without the contact of their loved ones which everyone knows can speed up recovery that is going to be lacking This decision is not taking the welfare of Vermont into consideration Taking this hospital away or repurposing it for what you believe it should be is actually criminal How can a board justify taking away life-saving care how can it justify taking away services that help prevent disease help detect disease sooner so that it can be addressed Transportation is so lacking in the Northeast kingdom that you are going to have elderly and young children not getting the care they need because they can't get there You think I'm kidding you think that I'm making a big deal of that look around we have RCT that's it for transportation in the Northeast kingdom if you don't have a license if you don't have a working vehicle. RCT Has limitations on who they can transport. Vermont wants to attract young professionals. What are they being attracted to nothing The decision to close this hospital came from someone that does not know the area does not know the citizens does not know their struggles their health or their welfare instead of closing the hospital why don't you work with the hospital as to how you want things to be changed a little bit instead of closing hospitals sit down and say this is where we want to go how can we get there. Jus because the oil light comes on in your car do you send it to the junkyard and look for an alternate? What you're asking the Northeast kingdom to do is see that their oil light is on get rid of the car and I guess now you have to walk Sorry, but that's our decision because that's what an outsider said was best for you.

Post Comment: Yes