



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

October 5, 2024

Chairman Owen Foster
Green Mountain Care Board
144 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Dear Chair Foster,

We the undersigned are publicly voicing our opposition to the Oliver Wyman Report on how to improve Vermont's health care system and its hospitals' financial health. We are very concerned with what the impact of this study and the effects of its recommendations will have upon our own North Country Hospital, but also with all of Vermont's 14 acute care hospitals. We acknowledge that our health care system does require changes to make it more affordable and accessible, but this report is not the way to achieve those requirements.

Many of the recommended priorities and future outcomes of this report can individually be challenged thus affecting its accuracy and credibility. Writing a report of this significance requires the most up to date and accurate information to be used. This did not occur even after North Country Hospital officials raised their concern with the Oliver Wyman team that outdated data was being used in the report. In fact, several of the recommendations had previously been accomplished resulting in a substantial increase in cash on hand. We believe that more analysis to include alternative recommendations and the most up to date data needs to be considered. The Green Mountain Care Board in collaboration with state agencies as well as the legislative and executive levels of government must tread carefully on the solutions selected that could ultimately cause more harm than good for our entire health care system. This is simply one report that will if implemented effect all of our hospitals, our communities and more importantly all Vermonter's future health care needs. We need to understand our health care environment since there will be no going back once these changes have been implemented.

Sincerely,

Senator Russ Ingalls
Senator Robert Starr
Representative Mark Higley

Representative Larry Labor
Representative Michael Marcotte
Representative Woodman Page
Representative Katherine Sims
Representative Brian Smith
Representative David Templeman

cc:

Office of the Governor/Governor Scott
Office of the Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant Governor Zuckerman
Agency of Human Services/Secretary Samuelson
Agency of Human Services/Health Care Reform/Director Krause
Agency of Human Services/Department of Health/Commissioner Levine, MD
Senate President Pro Tempore/President Pro Tempore Baruth
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare/Chair Lyons
Speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives/Speaker Krowinski
House Committee on Health Care/Chair Houghton