



**STATE OF VERMONT  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
115 STATE STREET  
MONTPELIER, VT  
05633-5201**

February 5, 2024

Mr. Owen Foster  
Chair  
Green Mountain Care Board  
144 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Chair Foster,

The undersigned are writing to share some thoughts and concerns regarding the University of Vermont Medical Center's (UVMHC) proposed outpatient surgery center. As the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) considers the CON application for the proposed surgery center, we respectfully ask you to weigh the impact it will have on the surrounding areas, including Lamoille County and the neighboring communities that are served by Copley Hospital.

As you are aware, Copley is known for their excellence in orthopedic care, and we ask that you consider the impact the proposed surgery center could have on this program. We certainly appreciate and support the need for UVMHC to ensure it has the capacity to serve its community. We ask that as GMCB contemplates the appropriate size of this expansion, you consider whether there is a point it would unnecessarily draw from neighboring service areas.

We are very proud of Copley, and as the health care landscape in Vermont continues to evolve, we are very serious about ensuring our constituents have access to high quality care in their community.

We are also concerned about the challenges we face in recruiting and maintaining workforce. This challenge is of course not unique to our region, but we ask GMCB consider the impact that expanding facilities in Chittenden County could have on more rural, neighboring communities. Limited housing and a very competitive workforce market are already a significant burden for Copley. We

are concerned about the impact of increasing competition in the region, and we ask that any expansion does not exceed what is needed.

Finally, we are concerned that if not properly addressed, the factors we outline above will likely increase the cost of delivering care in our region. We know GMCB takes cost pressures and the other concerns we've raised seriously in all the work you do and for that we are very appreciative. We simply want to make you aware of our perspective as you consider the proposed surgical center.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Representative Daniel Noyes  
Representative Saudia LaMont  
Representative Avram Patt  
Representative Katherine Sims  
Representative Melanie Carpenter  
Representative Lucy Boyden  
Representative Mark Higley  
Representative Jed Lipsky  
Representative Chip Troiano