

November 23, 2020

Kevin Mullin, Chairman  
Green Mountain Care Board  
144 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Chair Mullin,

Thank you for giving VAHHS the opportunity to express support for OneCare Vermont's proposed fiscal year 2021 budget and its ongoing work to create value-based care in our state.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has made clear, hospitals and the communities they serve stand to benefit from value-based care, especially in a time of crisis. OneCare plays a central role in facilitating the transition from fee-for-service to value-based payments and greater financial stability for Vermont's hospitals through the All-Payer Model (APM). OneCare manages Medicare, Medicaid and commercial payer relationships; aligns provider-led innovations within its network; and coordinates preventive and chronic care management for patients.

As partners in OneCare, hospitals are proud to have contributed significantly to the advancement of value-based care. OneCare's proposed fiscal year 2021 budget includes \$30 million in funding for primary care, mental health care, public health work, and quality initiatives. While not all the targets are being met under the APM, OneCare and hospitals continue to move in the right direction with these investments. Furthermore, OneCare is just a piece of the puzzle; meeting the goals of the APM will take a universal effort from health care providers, patients and the State of Vermont.

The transition to a value-based system is not without its challenges including how to effectively manage the financial risk hospitals take on as part of participating in the APM. The federal government anticipated the need for significant investment in the new value-based system and allocated \$209 million to Vermont for the five-year effort. These investments by the state and federal government have not materialized as expected, leaving hospitals to make the necessary investments and manage new risk on their own.

The challenging but critical work being done to advance the APM and focus on wellness will make our system more sustainable, effective, affordable and patient-centered. We continue to support Vermont's move to value-based care and the ongoing work of OneCare Vermont.

Sincerely,



Jeff Tieman  
President and CEO