



November 9, 2021

Green Mountain Care Board  
144 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Green Mountain Care Board Members,

As President and CEO of The UVM Health Network, and as Chair of OneCare Vermont's Board of Managers, I have a unique vantage point on the value of OneCare's health care reform work and the way in which it benefits providers. I am writing today in support of OneCare's FY 2022 budget submission, which is a responsible, accountable and proactive framework for continuing vital health care reform efforts throughout Vermont.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has impacted our patients, communities and health care providers for 20 months and counting, is a stark reminder that health care reform is more necessary than ever. As patient volumes dropped early in the pandemic, and as providers scrambled to meet their patients' needs in new and safer ways while also providing COVID-19 treatment, the fixed payments available via value-based care contracts negotiated by OneCare provided critical support and stability.

That's just one example of how OneCare supports its provider network while helping to transform the way health care is delivered and paid for. OneCare also is continuing to invest in population health management. OneCare's data and analytics are valuable tools for providers, during the pandemic and beyond. Providers also benefit from OneCare's care coordination, and from its creation of a forum for shared projects such as increasing health equity and managing chronic disease.

There is still much work to do under Vermont's All-Payer Model, and OneCare has work to do to fully realize its value for Vermonters, but the indicators of growth and progress are clear. I know you are familiar with the federal government's recent report on the model's first two years, but I want to re-emphasize the fact that an independent evaluator documented, in an academically rigorous review, reduced Medicare spending and hospitalizations at both the state and ACO levels – while also pointing to the model as “an important, unifying forum for providers, payers and state-level stakeholders.”

It's important to note, as well, that both the UVM Health Network and OneCare Vermont have sharpened their focus on the work ahead. As a health system, we are entering a “next phase” to improve performance and accelerate our transition to value-based care delivery and payment. At OneCare, a comprehensive strategic planning process has refocused the organization on its core capabilities – Network performance management; data and analytics; and payment reform. OneCare's recent governance change grew from this planning process: It made sense to align our organizations as we move forward. Together we can better meet the needs of all Vermont health care providers for data, analytics and care management, regardless of whether they are part of our Network or not.

All of this is happening amid an ongoing public health emergency, and in an extremely challenging environment for rural health care providers. Despite the loss of state funding to support delivery system reform, OneCare's FY 2022 budget strikes a balance between managing costs and continuing to support

the transition to value-based care. We at the UVM Health Network are both the beneficiaries of, and participants in, OneCare's efforts to transform health care in Vermont. I ask the Board to support OneCare's ongoing health care reform leadership, as outlined in its submitted FY 2022 budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Brumsted". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Brumsted" clearly legible.

**John R. Brumsted, MD**

President and CEO

The University of Vermont Health Network