



BANFF PLASTIC SURGERY

Susan E. MacLennan, MD

January 25, 2017

Green Mountain Care Board
89 Main St, 3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620

Dear Members of the Green Mountain Care Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the CON application submitted by ACTD to build an ambulatory surgery center in Colchester. I am a plastic surgeon who practiced at UVMMC for 15 years. I was responsible for the majority of the breast reconstruction performed at UVMMC during that time, and was deeply involved in the multidisciplinary care of women with breast cancer in Vermont and northern New York. I was a surgical subspecialist with a deep love for the community, but I left Vermont 18 months ago because I no longer wanted to be employed by UVMMC and there was no other viable practice option for me. Despite a proven busy OR schedule of 2-3 days operating most weeks, my OR time at UVMMC would have been taken away entirely (it was "divisional" time, not my "own" time). Despite my proven track record, it is certain that UVMMC breast surgeons would have been prohibited from referring to me. UVMMC surgeons are reimbursed significantly more than community surgeons for the exact same procedures (often performed with more efficiency and cost-effectiveness by community surgeons). Independent doctors have minimal bargaining power and are sadly diminishing in numbers in Vermont. All of this led to my decision to leave the community that I loved.

It is disheartening to hear that there are even fewer independent MDs in Vermont than when I left and that more of my former colleagues have left the state. If the ASC option had been there for me, I would not have left my community. The CON application has been mired in anti-competitive red tape for close to 2 years: the half-truths and demands put forth to the GMCB by the larger Vermont hospitals leave me dismayed. I firmly believe, and the evidence supports, that this outpatient ASC would provide precisely the value and quality that Vermonters expect and deserve. I urge the GMCB to move forward with approval of the proposal. Please contact me if I can provide any further information that would be helpful in supporting the ASC proposal.

Sincerely,

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