



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BURLINGTON**

June 23, 2016

Green Mountain Care Board
89 Main Street, Third floor
Montpelier, VT 05620

Dear Green Mountain Care Board Members,

I am writing in support of the Green Mountain Surgery Center's request for the Certificate of Need required to build an ambulatory surgery center in the Burlington area.

My work at the Boys & Girls Club of Burlington has convinced me that the most vulnerable of our children need affordable and easy access health care options where they can receive quality surgical care when necessary.

We have witnessed what a profound impact the Community Health Center has had on the children who live in low-income families in the Old North End of Burlington. Conditions that previously went undiagnosed and untreated are now being attended to with the care and concern that all children, regardless of their financial circumstances, deserve. It is our belief, that a high quality surgery center should have the same profound impact on these same children and their families.

We see an especially acute need in the dental care area. It simply is not currently possible for low income children to receive the same dental surgical care that more affluent families can access. We believe that a multi-specialty surgery center will be able to offer excess operating room time to practitioners such as pediatric dentists, oral surgeons and podiatrists, most of whom are practicing independently out in the community and may currently have difficulty accessing enough operating room time at hospitals to serve their most deserving patients.

The lack of access to dental surgical care leads to dental neglect that can forever erode the self-esteem every child needs to be able to move through life with confidence. We believe that this current unfairness in our community can be addressed by allowing more options for affordable, quality ambulatory surgical care centers.

I sincerely urge the Board to issue the Certificate of Need to the Green Mountain Surgery Center so that Burlington's children in our low income neighborhoods can begin to access the care they need.

Very truly,

Mary Alice McKenzie
Executive Director

Our mission is to inspire and enable youth in our community, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, healthy, caring and responsible citizens.