

VERMONT LEGAL AID, INC.

OFFICE OF THE HEALTH CARE ADVOCATE

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July 21, 2017

Kevin Mullin
Chair, Green Mountain Care Board
3rd Floor City Center
89 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-3601

Cc: Andy Pallito, Director of Health Systems Finance

Re: Opposition to Requests for Exemption from the Hospital Budget Review Process

Dear Chair and Members of the Green Mountain Care Board:

The Office of the Health Care Advocate (HCA) asks the Green Mountain Care Board (the Board) to deny all requests for exemption from the fiscal year 2018 hospital budget review hearings and any other components of the review process. The complete hospital budget review and adjustment process is an important piece of the Board's work to contain health care costs, and its outcome directly affects the Board's other regulatory processes. The public hearing component of the hospital budget review process is essential for transparency to Vermonters. Reviewing the full slate of hospitals gives the Board, the HCA and the public a complete view of our state's hospital system.

Particularly this year, with a new Board Chair and two new Members, a new Director of Health Systems Finance, and substantial changes to the health care system in the pipeline, we believe it would be detrimental to the Board's processes to exempt one or more hospitals.

Thank you for considering our position. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

\s\ Julia Shaw
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