



Brattleboro Retreat
MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION CARE

October 17, 2016

The Honorable Peter Shumlin
Governor of Vermont
109 State Street
The Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609

Dear Governor Shumlin:

On behalf of the Brattleboro Retreat I am writing to express support for Vermont's all-payer model agreement currently in the final stages of negotiation. We endorse the model's principles for health reform including the reduction of health care costs to Vermonters, access for everyone, and patient choice of provider. I believe the all-payer model has the potential to help better align Vermont's health care system with these principles.

At the same time, many details are still needed to enable hospitals such as the Retreat to plan for a new environment and ensure that they can continue serving as a vital resource to our community. As these important steps are taken, I encourage your Administration to review my recent comments at the public meeting in Brattleboro where I raised concerns about the need for more resources for mental health and addiction treatment.

I am encouraged by the all-payer model's potential to strengthen our health care system and make it more affordable and effective for patients and providers alike. As we learn additional details, the Retreat will continue to offer feedback on how the model must continually adapt to new information and changing circumstances.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Louis Josephson, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Lawrence Miller, Chief of Health Care Reform
Al Gobeille, Green Mountain Care Board Chair