

June 9, 2015

Mr. Alfred Gobeille
Chair, Green Mountain Care Board
89 Main Street, Third Floor, City Center
Montpelier, Vermont 05620

Dear Mr. Gobeille,

I write on behalf AARP-VT, an organization dedicated to enhancing quality of life for all as we age. Representing approximately 140,000 Vermonters we work for positive social change and to deliver value to our members through information, advocacy and service.

I am writing to support the effort to build an outpatient ambulatory surgery center in Chittenden County. For our members, having a lower cost, high quality outpatient surgery option is something which makes sense and should be available.

AARP believes that health care spending should be more rational and support the goals of more efficient planning, budgeting, and resource coordination. We believe that cost containment should be an explicit consideration in decisions relating to the distribution and allocation of health care resources, capital, technology, and personnel, whereby innovation, efficiency, cost effectiveness and reasonable access to services are all encouraged.

Outpatient surgery has become an increasingly important part of medical care in the United States in the past 30 years, with the number of outpatient procedures rising dramatically since 1981. In 2011, more than 60 percent of all U.S. surgeries were outpatient procedures compared to 19 percent in 1981. This is due in part because they're more convenient for patients than hospitals, getting them back home more quickly as well as being less costly. According to a [2014 study published in Health Affairs](#), ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) offer a lower-cost alternative to hospitals as venues for outpatient surgeries. By analyzing survey data from the CDC, the study found that, on average, procedures performed in ASCs took about 25 percent less time than the same procedures performed at a hospital and with equal levels of patient satisfaction. The study's findings suggest that ASCs provide an efficient way to meet future growth in demand for outpatient surgeries and can help fulfill the Affordable Care Act's goals of reducing costs while improving the quality of health care delivery.

In my opinion AARP-VT members, and in fact all Vermonters, will be well served by having a non-hospital based surgical option in our state.

Sincerely,



Greg Marchildon
Executive Director, AARP-VT