

Dear Members of the Green Mountain Care Board:

The Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI) provides comprehensive health benefit plans for nearly 43,000 active and retired Vermont education employees and their dependents. This self-funded purchasing trust is managed jointly by the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust (VSBIT) and the Vermont-National Education Association (Vermont-NEA).

On behalf of VEHI, we are writing to express our support for a recent Certificate of Need Application, which, if approved, would establish an independent **Ambulatory Surgical Center** in Chittenden County.

As fiduciaries for VEHI and its members, it is incumbent upon us to advocate for health care options that are of high quality and can deliver medical services at a lower cost. We understand that ASCs are operating effectively and safely across the nation, and throughout our region, and are providing cost savings.

We are convinced that an outpatient surgical option in Chittenden County would be an affordable and convenient option for the school district members of VEHI and their employees, for retirees in the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System, and, more generally, for the people of Vermont. Further, being able to deliver excellent health care more affordably to our members and subscribers would strengthen VEHI fiscally and, thus, help us to control premium growth, which in turn would contribute to reducing budgetary pressures on local tax payers.

Establishing an ASC in Chittenden County makes sense, medically and financially. It is an idea whose time has come for Vermont.

Sincerely,



Laura Soares
VSBIT/VEHI



Mark Hage
Vermont-NEA/VEHI