

VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY

August 10, 2017

Honorable Governor Phil Scott
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609

Re: Upcoming Green Mountain Care Board Vacancy

Dear Governor Scott:

On behalf of our over 2000 physician and physician assistant members, the Vermont Medical Society writes to urge you to fill the seat on the Green Mountain Care Board becoming vacant this fall with a currently- or recently-practicing medical professional.

The Green Mountain Care Board is charged with a central role in regulating not only our State's current health care system but also in crafting the future of delivering health care in Vermont. The Board's decisions touch every clinician and patient in the State through its work regulating health insurance rates, hospital budgets, ACOs, and major capital expenditures as well as testing new ways to pay for and deliver health care.

The VMS was disappointed that given three vacant Board seats in the past year, none were filled with a clinician. As you know, that is in contrast to the recent past when both a physician and registered nurse were members of the Board. The long term credibility and effectiveness of the Board depend on having clinician Board members. A medical professional will bring to the policy arena the experience of having directly seen the impact of prior health care policies both on their own practice environments and on their patients. Clinicians can not only help bridge the gap between medical practice and policy but have a unique vantage from which to spot opportunities for innovation and help translate policies into terms other clinicians can understand and adopt. Finally, a clinician is ideally poised to help address the critical issue facing Vermont of recruiting and retaining a viable health care workforce, such as by reducing the administrative burdens that have been recognized as a major factor in the epidemic of clinician burnout.

In sum, the Vermont Medical Society believes that the full promise of the Green Mountain Care Board to reduce the rate of health care growth while maintaining high quality and access to medical services can only be realized when a practicing medical professional is one of the appointed members of the Board. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Paul Harrington
Executive Vice President

CC: Green Mountain Care Board Nominating Committee Members; Chair, Kevin Mullin;
Executive Director Susan Barrett; Senator Claire Ayer; Rep. Bill Lippert