

I am writing to say that I do not support the building of a new psychiatric facility in Middlesex, VT. I am a public high school teacher who lives in Brattleboro, VT. I have personally witnessed my students who have struggled with their mental health be completely unsupported by facilities such as these. One of my students who experienced being held in a locked mental health facility lied about their future mental health struggles because they did not want to be put back into a locked facility. These young people have asked for alternatives such as voluntary care spaces with peer support for people who are struggling with their mental health. As we get more informed on how to really help support and care for people who are struggling it becomes so clear that a prison like facility is not the answer. I urge you to not vote in support of the construction of this facility in Vermont.

Sincerely,

Laura Stamas
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