

VERMONT LEGAL AID, INC.

OFFICE OF THE HEALTH CARE ADVOCATE

264 NORTH WINOOSKI AVE.
BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401
(800) 917-7787 (TOLL FREE HOTLINE)
(802) 863-7152 (FAX)

OFFICES:

BURLINGTON
RUTLAND
ST. JOHNSBURY

OFFICES:

MONTPELIER
SPRINGFIELD

To: Senate Health and Welfare Committee & House Health Care Committee

Re: Support for 1-Year Extension of Act 6 Provisions

From: The Office of the Health Care Advocate

Date: January 13th, 2022

Dear Senator Lyons and Representative Lippert and members of the Senate Health and Welfare & House Health Care Committees:

The Office of the Health Care Advocate (HCA) broadly supports a 1-year extension of the Act 6 provisions as recommended in committee testimony on January 5th. We agree that quick movement on these provisions is important during this time of significant challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the HCA does not believe that it is prudent to make major changes to these important system-wide regulatory protections at this time. Such considerations should only be explored when there is sufficient time for all stakeholders – particularly the GMCB and its staff - to contemplate the full range of potential costs and benefits of such a proposal.

Specifically, the HCA does not support the recommendation by the coalition of health care association leaders that the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) “exempt hospital investments in order to meet labor demands from the budget-to-actual reconciliation process or any budget caps” as a part of the hospital budget process. The Board currently has broad authority to consider the advisability of exempting investments to meet labor demands which we believe should be maintained.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Fisher | Chief Health Care Advocate | *he/him*

Vermont Legal Aid | Working for Justice

[264 N. Winooski Ave](#) | [Burlington VT 05401](#)

(802) 989-9806 Personal Cell

mfisher@vtlegalaid.org | www.vtlegalaid.org

Follow us on Facebook!

HCA Helpline 800.917.7787