

Dear Chair Houghton,

Thank you for asking us to comment on S.89 and specifically the section regarding exemption from certificate of need (CON) review.

The Green Mountain Care Board supports exempting the initial forensic facility located in the nine-bed unit of the current Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital from CON review. We do not support amending 18 V.S.A. § 9435 to exclude all future forensic facilities supervised and operated by the Commissioner of DMH, the Commissioner of DAHL, or both, from CON review, as currently reflected in section 17 of the bill.

**Susan J. Barrett, J.D. (she/her)**

Executive Director

Green Mountain Care Board