



One Railway Lane, Burlington, VT 05401  
Tel: 802-658-2550 Fax: 802-658-2553

May 23, 2025

**Email Only**

Chair Lyons and Committee Members  
Senate Health & Welfare Committee  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: H.266

Dear Senator Lyons and Members of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 160 employees of Vermont Rail System to support your committee efforts to counteract the rapid escalation of health care costs here in Vermont. More specifically, we ask that you strongly consider establishing a limit on hospital mark-ups for cancer and other critical outpatient medications. For more than sixty years our employees have worked around the clock in all weather to help VRS connect shippers, customers and local communities with efficient and economical rail freight service, but health care cost increases make it increasingly difficult to keep and recruit the skilled workforce we need. Medical costs -in the form of skyrocketing insurance premiums and high prices from Vermont hospitals- layered on top of scarce housing are making Vermont unaffordable for those who live and work here.

It is our understanding that the prices charged by some Vermont hospitals are among the highest in the country. We also understand that there are no simple solutions, but finding reductions in the rising cost of health care is becoming more and more urgent and should not be delayed if families and businesses are to thrive and succeed in Vermont. While a more comprehensive solution should be the goal, we believe H.266 can be another step in the right direction of making health care more affordable to all Vermonters.

Regards,

Peter F. Young

General Counsel  
Vermont Rail System

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