

Erika Elder, Town Administrator
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21 July, 2026

Governor Phil Scott
Office of the Governor
109 State Street, Pavilion Building
Montpelier, VT 05609

Vermont State Legislators
Vermont State House
115 State Street, Drawer 33
Montpelier, VT 05602

Brattleboro Memorial Hospital Administration and Board of Directors
17 Belmont Avenue
Brattleboro, VT 05301

SUBJECT: Urgent Action Required to Protect Healthcare Services

Dear Governor Scott, Vermont State Legislators, and BMH Administration and Board,

The purpose of this letter is to state that the Town of Guilford Selectboard Members view the potential closure of the BMH Birthing Center as a critical matter requiring your immediate and urgent action.

The closing of this Center could have a negative impact on every person in our town and on the people in surrounding towns, not only in Vermont, but in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. To survive financially, our state needs to attract green businesses, which requires a workforce. Young families want to live and work in a community where they feel supported and welcomed. A local hospital with a Birthing Center is an essential component to creating such an environment.

But beyond the financial impact of closing the Birthing Center, is the risk that such a closure brings to the health of every woman and unborn child. This has an even greater impact on those families at the lower income levels, making prenatal care and birthing care

more difficult to access. It is this dangerous health risk, and the inequitable discrimination, that raises this matter to a level beyond a high priority, requiring urgent action.

We are fortunate to be living in an exceptionally caring and giving community where personal donations are part of what enables many organizations to do their work. But this situation also requires government intervention in order for the health of our hospital to be maintained on a long-term basis. We need you all to work together to take the urgent actions needed to keep our community healthy.

This matter can not be dismissed as political, since it impacts all of us regardless of our personal views. Although it has a major financial impact on all of us, more importantly, it directly impacts the health of most of us living here.

Thank you for your commitment to addressing this matter with the urgency it requires.

Sincerely,



Erika Elder, Town Administrator
on Behalf of The Town of Guilford Selectboard
Sheila Morse, Tara Cheney, Chip Carter, Mike Szostak, Kim Frost