



# The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

107 North Main Street, Concord, N.H. 03301-4951

October 30, 2019

Dear Colleague,

We write to ask you to join us in support of Exeter Health Resources and its intended affiliation with Massachusetts General Hospital and Wentworth-Douglass Hospital. Although the New Hampshire Attorney General issued an objection to the affiliation on September 20, 2019, we understand each of the parties to the affiliation are still committed to moving forward with the federal and state regulatory process. We strongly support them.

People in our communities support the affiliation and understand the many tremendous benefits it would offer, including the development of a Level II nursery, which currently does not exist on the Seacoast, comprehensive behavioral health services in line with the state's 10-year mental health plan, expanded local access to subspecialty services supported by one of the top ranked hospitals in the nation, and a stronger future for non-profit healthcare on the Seacoast. We believe there is a path forward for the Attorney General's approval and strongly support all efforts to allow the affiliation to proceed.

The Attorney General's antitrust review is currently very narrowly focused and should be further developed, and does not address or consider the major benefits of the transaction to the community, the threat to the long-term sustainability of Exeter Hospital, or the ability to implement protections to prevent cost increases. The Attorney General can and should look at this transaction through a more comprehensive lens, taking those factors into account.

If the Attorney General's modeling has suggested a concern about increased costs, it is possible to negotiate mutually agreeable conditions to address any such theoretical concerns. We understand the affiliating parties are willing to do that. Given what is at stake, we feel compelled to ask you to join us in encouraging the Governor and the Attorney General to work with the parties to find a way forward and approve the affiliation. This is not a partisan issue and with the help of state leaders and other advocates supporting the affiliation, we can make a difference for the people in our community. They deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of David H. Watters in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

NH State Senator David Watters

Handwritten signature of Jon Morgan in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

NH State Senator Jon Morgan