



## Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice

March 25, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

On behalf of Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice, I wish to express our commitment to the statewide broadband proposal titled Network New Hampshire Now (#4248) submitted by the University of New Hampshire to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2 program. Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice is impacted directly by a lack of available connectivity and by the high cost of connectivity due to insufficient supply and inadequate price competition in New Hampshire.

The initiative to bring broadband to rural areas fits perfectly with our mission to deliver the highest quality of care utilizing all possible technology to residents of Merrimack and Sullivan County and The Upper Valley. Having access to patient records through the internet and the ability to remotely monitor patients with chronic health conditions will greatly enhance the care we provide. Broadband will also allow our nearly 100 field staff of nurses and therapists to have access to patient information and to communicate more effectively with teams of healthcare providers through physician portals. These enhance technological practices will not only improve the outcomes of home care but also will decrease the cost of services delivered.

Robust and reliable broadband connectivity is critical to Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice. We rely on broadband to deliver the highest quality care in a way that is affordable to individuals who are the most frail and vulnerable. We are currently unable to expand our services due to inadequate access to reliable and affordable broadband services. The Network New Hampshire Now Project will be extremely useful for us, and hence to our customers.

For these reasons, we at Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice are enthusiastically committed to New Hampshire's efforts at constructing the Network New Hampshire Now Project. We encourage the funding and construction of this project, and we look forward to being a customer of the finished network.

Sincerely,

Ellen L. Brownson, M.Ed  
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