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Town: Putney

Topic: ACOs

Comment:

I am a pediatrician, recently retired from a hospital practice in Brattleboro. Thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts on the 2019 OneCare budget.

How can the Green Mountain Care Board, with its mission to reduce the rate of health care cost growth, approve an increased budget for OneCare? To date, OneCare has not shown that it is able to decrease health care expenditures.

Health care costs are high in this country NOT because of over-utilization by providers or patients, but rather because of high prices. And prices are high because of wasteful administrative costs, the consolidation of pharmaceutical, insurance and hospital corporations, and because there are no price controls. The ACO aims to contain costs by shifting financial risk to doctors. But OneCare has failed to keep growth below 3.5%. It has not made commercial insurance more affordable. It has failed to meet one of its own quality measures of initiation and engagement in substance abuse treatment. It has not increased access to primary care providers. OneCare has added to the administrative costs, it is soon to be a monopoly, and it has not even addressed high pharmaceutical costs.

The GMCB was created by Act 48, which put Vermont on the path to a single payer system. But instead we have the State funneling public monies into a private corporation!

Let's get rid of the waste in the system, not add to it.

The Board should not approve the \$257 million increase in OneCare's budget to \$903 billion, without getting answers about efficacy, transparency and accountability.