

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 8/10/2023 4:02:50 PM

Name: Barbara Walsh

Affiliation: St. Albans Electric Appliance Co., Inc.

Town/City: St. Albans

Topic: Health Insurance Rate Review

Comment: Dear Chair Foster and Members of the Green Mountain Care Board, As you continue to consider the increases requested by the Vermont hospitals, please keep the impact of these increases on Vermont businesses and our employees front of mind. BCBSVT indicated in its most recent rate filing that 2/3 of its increase is the result of increased hospital costs. Vermont businesses and their employees cannot continue to bare these costs, particularly, if they continue to increase exponentially. These escalating costs prevent us from reinvesting in our business - impeding our ability to grow and increase our workforce. We've struggled to hang on this long by examining every opportunity to reduce costs and administrative overhead – continually adjusting to the changing landscape of our market. We have been committed to this because we value our employees and know how important health insurance is to their financial security and peace of mind. As we look at our health insurance costs over the years, we have seen an 20% increase since 2018. Every year we worry about the sustainability of these increases. That conversation is becoming more and more critical - some relief is needed. We respectfully request that the GMCB exercise its full authority to limit any increase in hospital costs.

Post Comment: Yes