

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received on 04/17/2024.

Name: William Young

Topic: APM/AHEAD

Comment: While I am not extremely knowledgeable about health care issues, I am an older, retired former state employee who is very concerned about the state of our health care in Vermont and the country. Learning about the greed, dishonesty and fraud common in our systems and so harmful to all of us in terms of quality care while health insurance organizations and others line their pockets is very disturbing, to say the least. In this background, the AHEAD model we seem to be moving quickly to adopt as a state is the wrong way to go. Perhaps changing the name to the "BACK model" would be more appropriate as it will take us backwards instead of moving forward to address the serious issues facing us. The most dangerous part of AHEAD is the undermining of the GMCB by shifting the oversight of hospital budgets to the Agency of Human Services, headed by a Secretary appointed by the Governor, who may or often may not have any expertise or knowledge in the area of health care and who must serve the Governor's wishes. I understand that AHS has already begun discussions with hospitals about how to proceed under the AHEAD model. The Governor's attempt to deprive retired state employees of a quality health insurance system last year does not leave me with any confidence in this current proposal. The GMCB must be independent! Instead of adopting this highly questionable model, with it's extremely long implementation period, we should be moving quickly to focus on developing a high quality primary care system that addresses the shortage of primary care physicians, nurses, mental health services for children and families, substance abuse services and issues of affordability. I fear that the current plan will do none of this, while driving up costs in the higher end of the system instead of improving and supporting changes that better serve the public and save us money. Nor should we have any reason to trust those who have been crossing over at the national level between government health care and those private organizations that have been filling their pockets with public funds through fraud, dishonesty and greed. We need Vermont solutions to Vermont problems. Respectfully submitted, William M Young Cabot Vermont

Post Comment: Yes