

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 5/30/2023

Name: Andy Kehler

Affiliation: Jasper Hill Farm

Town/City: Greensboro Bend

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment:

Dear Chair Foster and Members of the Green Mountain Care Board,

As a Vermont business owner I am appalled that the Vermont hospitals is seeking a collective \$87 million increase in budget funding. BCBSVT indicated in its most recent rate filing that 2/3 of its 14.5% requested increase is the result of increased hospital costs - this is before any further increase in hospital costs is considered. Most businesses that exist outside of government subsidies do not have the ability to raise margins to cover these costs. We have been fighting inflation the last several years and we cannot continue to pay the costs associated with unfettered cost increases in insurance coverage.

2023 is expected to be the year with the largest number of bankruptcies in history. 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 believe that every Vermonter deserves quality, affordable health care, but we cannot be saddled with paying for unbridled spending.

We respectfully request that the GMCB exercise its full authority to limit any increase in hospital costs and require them to adjust to their market.

Post Comment: Yes