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Owen Foster, J.D., Chair  
Jessica Holmes, Ph.D.  
Robin Lunge, J.D., MHCDS  
David Murman, M.D.  
Thom Walsh, Ph.D., MS, MSPT

Green Mountain Care Board  
144 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620

Dear Members of the Green Mountain Care Board,

I write on behalf of MVP Health Care ("MVP") and its Vermont members. Rising health care costs force Vermonters to allocate scarce income and resources towards health care instead of other vital needs. Therefore, MVP requests that the GMCB prioritize health care affordability as it considers FY2024 hospital budgets and ensure alignment with approved individual and small group commercial health insurance premium rates.

MVP recognizes and appreciates the concerns and challenges of community hospital partners. Vermont and other state health care systems are dealing with rising labor costs, provider shortages, reimbursement challenges, and infrastructure needs. Vermont's population, geography, and delivery system also pose unique challenges.

However, unsustainable health care cost trends cannot be shouldered by Vermont families and employers. Earlier this year, the GMCB approved lower-than-requested premium increases, aiming to improve affordability and access to high-quality care. During this process, the GMCB identified hospital budget growth as a key driver of commercial health insurance premium increases, identifying the need for further examination. As such, in line with these GMCB decisions, the Board must prioritize affordability and value as a central consideration in FY2024 hospital budget approvals as well.

As costs continue to rise, we must collectively evaluate our premium and taxpayer funds' allocation to provide high-quality care and access to services that enhance the health and wellness of all Vermonters. We must strike a delicate balance between an affordable health care system and equitable access to quality care statewide.

Collaboration between commercial rate payers, the GMCB, Vermont policymakers, and our community hospital and provider partners is essential to advance this critical goal. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jordan Estey".

Jordan Estey  
Senior Director, Government Affairs