

**A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.**

**Submit Time:** 5/26/2023

**Name:** Glenn Von Bernewitz

**Affiliation:** Redstone

**Town/City:** Burlington

**Topic:** Hospital Budget

**Comment:** Dear Chair Foster and Members of the Green Mountain Care Board, The request by the Vermont hospitals to ignore established budget guidance and seek a collective \$87 million increase is extremely troubling. 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. Vermont businesses and their employees cannot continue to bare these costs, particularly, if they continue to increase with no guard rails in place. 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. Our Company used to be able to cover more premiums for our staff. We were forced to institute higher cost sharing in prior years and would need to again if these projections hold true. Unfortunately, increases such as these proposed will directly impact working Vermonters.

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