

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 8/15/2023

Name: Eric Hauser

Affiliation: Chief Finance and People Officer at Cx Associates

Town/City: Burlington

Topic: Hospital Budget

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 like Cx Associates (a 16-person energy engineering consulting firm in Burlington) 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. It makes us question whether we can afford to hire another employee, or continue to cover employees' insurance at the current levels. 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. Prices for our 2023 renewal jumped 20% over 2022. Importantly, these rate increases do not seem to also come with improved service from BCBSVT or improved patient outcomes. In fact, our employees continually report issues in dealing with BCBSVT. Some relief is needed for small businesses like us, and our employees. We respectfully request that the GMCB exercise its full authority to limit any increase in hospital costs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully, Eric Hauser Chief Finance & People Officer, Cx Associates Burlington

Post Comment: Yes