

From: LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>

Sent on: Thursday, August 17, 2023 8:02:32 PM

To: GMCB - Health Systems Finances<GMCB.HealthSystemsFinances@vermont.gov>; GMCB - Board Members<GMCB.BoardMembers@vermont.gov>; Bredice, Tara<Tara.Bredice@vermont.gov>

Subject: Public Comment: Hospital Budget 2023-08-17T20:02:29Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 8/17/2023 8:02:29 PM

Name: Frank Cioffi

Affiliation: Citizen

Town/City: South Burlington, Vermont

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: August 17, 2023 Dear Green Mountain Care Board: As we enter another season of health insurer and hospital rate setting, I want to offer the perspective of someone who has worked in business and economic development in Vermont for decades, particularly in the Champlain Valley. The UVM Medical Center is our state's only academic medical center and it provides care to everyone, statewide, from routine care to the most complex. As part of the UVM Health Network, its ability to support excellent care across all of Vermont and the North Country of New York makes it a cornerstone in working to ensure the well-being of the people of our region. I think my neighbors will agree that we might not live near a big urban area, but we still need and deserve access to cutting-edge treatments and the highest quality health care possible. Our hospitals – especially UVM Medical Center – are ground zero for the health crisis of opioid addiction, mental illness, homelessness and serve as the primary surgery center, cancer center and trauma center for our state. Without UVM Medical Center we may have lost many more lives during the pandemic. All of this while UVM Medical Center and all of our state's hospitals are unable to find enough nurses and medical professionals forcing even higher staffing costs at a time when we face a debilitating lack of housing at all price points. To put it simply, in Vermont in 2023 we find ourselves in a very difficult situation. But one thing remains clear: our economic environment – and our very physical wellbeing – is dependent upon the success of the UVM Medical Center. Our hospitals are responsible stewards of our health care dollars and they act in the interest of all Vermonters with the choices they make. It's not our hospitals' fault that our state and federal governments don't pay enough for the care of the patients they insure. It's not our hospitals' fault the Legislature enacted new programs with additional tax burdens on people and businesses paying commercial rate increases. It is not our hospitals' fault that little has been done to stem Vermont's high cost of living. This is a math problem – to keep the doors open, the lights on, and the talented staff ready and waiting, our hospitals need to be able to cover their expenses, all of which have skyrocketed. As an economic development professional, a business leader and lifelong Vermonter, I support the UVM Medical Center as they seek the revenue they need to continue to provide the lifesaving treatments and sustain their operations. The health and wellbeing of our community, of Vermonters, and our state's economy depend upon it. Thank you for your service to Vermont. Regards, Frank Cioffi

Post Comment: Yes