

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

**Sent on:** Monday, August 14, 2023 3:54:41 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 2023-08-14T15:54:37Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 8/14/2023 3:54:37 PM

Name: Lynn Bryan

Affiliation: I work at UVMHC, though I am speaking as a private citizen, and as a healthcare consumer.

Town/City: Williston

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: It appears that increases in hospital service fees results in commercial insurance rate hikes that are often higher than the increase in fees when higher deductibles and copays/co-insurance is taken into account. During the pandemic when every healthcare provider in VT saw a reduction in patient volumes, insurance rates stayed the same and insurance co profits skyrocketed while hospitals and doctors' offices consistently lost revenue. Insurance Co's seem to want to continue to feed off the backs of consumers (who have little choice when their plans are provided by their employer) while enriching themselves and their stockholders. So, my question is, why does the focus of GMC (and the media and news outlets) continue to be the increase in prices at the hospitals instead of on what the insurance companies are required to provide for coverage at a reasonable cost to consumers, while their profits are outrageous and continue to increase?

Post Comment: Yes