

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

Sent on: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 7:53:19 PM

To: GMCB - Health Systems Finances<GMCB.HealthSystemsFinances@vermont.gov>; Bredice, Tara<Tara.Bredice@vermont.gov>; LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>

Subject: Public Comment: Hospital Budget 2023-08-30T19:53:15Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 8/30/2023 7:53:15 PM

Name: Walter Carpenter

Affiliation: Health Care activist and common citizen

Town/City: Montpelier, Vt

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: From reading the comments on this public comments section about the hospital budgets, and that the hospitals are again submitting budgets asking for double-digit increases, it is clear that our neoliberal, Wall Street approach to healthcare has shown itself to be a complete failure. No matter how hard we try, we cannot hide it anymore. Just like the climate, we have reached that veritable tipping point. We can no longer keep looking at employees, nurses, physicians, and so on as resources to make money off of for the company and administrators as highly-paid assets. As one surgeon complained to me a week ago, "What do these administrators do all day to earn these crazy salaries while we're working our asses off? They don't seem to do anything." Vermonters can no longer afford various associations like the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, which we pay for. We can no longer afford to keep shoveling money into the travesty of OneCare, which consumes millions of dollars for precious little benefit to those paying for it. It would be curious to know what percentage of these budgets going up into the double-digits that the GMCB must contend with, go out to the lobbyists from the lobby shops in Montpelier (not to mention their own government operations departments) hired by the hospitals to keep things like universal primary care at bay that would actually help Vermonters. We pay for that. I know that this is not the GMCB's purview and that the GMCB is trying to do the best that it can while being stuck with juggling painful impossibilities, but it is time we acknowledge that treating patients as accounts receivables has brought us to this point. It's time to move on from this racket and finally treat our health care as the human right it should have been long ago.

Post Comment: Yes