

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

**Sent on:** Tuesday, September 17, 2024 8:26:32 PM

**To:** GMCB - Health Systems Finances<GMCB.HealthSystemsFinances@vermont.gov>; Foster, Owen<Owen.Foster@vermont.gov>; Barrett, Susan<Susan.Barrett@vermont.gov>; Barber, Michael<Michael.Barber@vermont.gov>; Walsh, Thom<Thom.Walsh@vermont.gov>; Murman, David<David.Murman@vermont.gov>; Lunge, Robin<Robin.Lunge@vermont.gov>; Holmes, Jessica A.<Jessica.A.Holmes@vermont.gov>; Hengstler, Mark<Mark.Hengstler@vermont.gov>; LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>

**Subject:** Public Comment: Hospital Budget 2024-09-17T20:26:30Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

**Submit Time:** 9/17/2024 8:26:30 PM

**Name:** Ben Vasile

**Affiliation:** University of Vermont Medical Center, Graduate Medical Education

**Town/City:**

**Topic:** Hospital Budget

**Comment:** Please reconsider the decision to reduce UVMHC's FY25 budget request by \$146M in net patient revenue and require a \$106M reduction in expenses. Access to healthcare services in Vermont is already so precarious, and adequate funding is absolutely critical to the organization's ability to meet the needs of the community. This devastating financial reduction will undoubtedly hinder the hospital's capacity to address rising patient care and economic strains, and the citizens of Vermont will suffer as a result. With an aging population and a brain-drain of young, educated individuals migrating to other states, it is critical for Vermont to take steps towards a progressive and growing healthcare system that supports its communities. Decreasing UVMHC's approved commercial rate for FY25 is in no way consistent with a mission of enhancing and supporting population health and wellbeing. For all of the Vermonters who have had to wait months for life-changing procedures due to lack of resources (me - had to wait over 12 months between 2022 and 2023 for shoulder arthroscopy to treat to chronic instability, and it exacerbated to a point where I was dislocating every few weeks while doing simple chores around the house), this FY25 budget reduction is incredibly disappointing and scary. With the direction that GMCB has been taking Vermont's healthcare funding in the last few years, I fear for the health, wellbeing, and safety of Vermonters. Please reconsider this trend of painful financial restrictions, and instead pivot towards a trajectory of supporting expanded access and services for the people of Vermont. GMCB is a unique model for oversight of healthcare spending, and you have the opportunity to set an industry gold-standard that balances regulation with population needs. Thank you for taking the time to read this comment.

**Post Comment:** Yes