

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

Sent on: Thursday, September 12, 2024 2:49:54 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 2024-09-12T14:49:51Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 9/12/2024 2:49:51 PM

Name: Benjamin Hammill

Affiliation: Deskside Support Tech at UVMHC

Town/City: Burlington

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: Why Should Our Hospital's Budget Not Be Cut? UVMHC, as the only academic and level 1 trauma center in Vermont, plays a crucial role in our community. As a nonprofit organization our financial margin is already tight. Over the past year, we have seen 24,000 new unique patients, and cutting our budget increase from 9% to 3.5% would severely impact our ability to keep up with this demand. A \$160 million cut might seem manageable on paper, but it would directly hit essential services like IT, which are the backbone of patient care. IT is not just there to keep the hospital running; it is what allows us to manage patient records, provide timely care, and ensure everything functions smoothly. With such a cut, we risk slower response times, reduced access, and lower quality of care—things that could even put lives at risk. As a nonprofit, we do not have the luxury of absorbing these kinds of financial hits. Cutting back now would make it harder to meet the increasing needs of our patients. We need the full 9% budget increase to ensure we can continue to serve Vermont and its surrounding communities with the high-quality care they've come to expect.

Post Comment: Yes