

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

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Name: Ethan Parke

Affiliation:

Town/City: Montpelier

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: I would like to know why, according to the Kaiser Foundation's comparison of states, Vermont is by far the most expensive state in which to buy insurance through the "Affordable" Care Act. We pay \$948 a month for the lowest cost Silver Plan; New Hampshire pays \$324 for the exact same coverage. That's an unbelievable difference! It's not because we have too many hospital beds. We are well below the national average in per capita community hospital beds according to Becker's Hospital Review. It's not because we have the most elderly population. New Hampshire, Maine, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands all have older populations than ours, and yet their insurance rates are lower. It's not because of payer mix. Vermont is near the middle of all states in its percentage of people enrolled in Medicaid, according to World Population Review's 2024 statistics. And we have a low percentage of people uninsured. It's not because we are sicker than other states. We are well below the national average in percent of adults who smoke tobacco. We have significantly lower rates of cardiovascular disease than New Hampshire. We have one of the lowest incidence rates of diabetes in the country; New Hampshire's diabetes incidence is about average. These facts are according to the CDC. So I would like to know why our Vermont Health Connect plans are so unaffordable-- almost three times as high as similar plans in New Hampshire, and more than twice the national average.

Post Comment: Yes