

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

Sent on: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 12:48:18 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 2024-09-18T12:48:14Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 9/18/2024 12:48:14 PM

Name: Heather Gutchell

Affiliation: UVMHC

Town/City: Burlington

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: Good Morning, I am writing to you today in response to the reduction in the University of Vermont Medical Center's budget for FY25. As the largest hospital in Vermont, we tend to take over patients from other smaller hospitals that cannot provide care to the level that we can. We are not only providing services for Vermonters but many New Yorkers. This proposed reduction will greatly affect the level of care we can give but also, the amount of patients we can help. I have worked at UVMHC for 16 years and access has always been a problem but as access has improved, the volume of patients has also risen. Not approving the proposed budget and actually reducing our budget will greatly impact being able to continue the important and necessary work of expanding our access, providing necessary services to those who need it (regardless if they reside in Vermont or a different state), and continuing to help our tightknit community. As the cost of everything continues to rise, UVMHC needs to be able to afford the supply & demand of our society in order to not limit our ability to do what we do best: heal others. Being a Vermonter myself, I am grateful to have a level 1 trauma center that is local, accessible, and ready to help if I ever need it - having a budget that can continue to support that is not only necessary but also an important responsibility and one that I know cannot be taken lightly. I appreciate your reflection and thoughtfulness around this very challenging topic and I deeply hope you reconsider your decision.

Post Comment: Yes