

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

**Submit Time:** 8/27/2024

**Name:** Jennifer Wilson

**Affiliation:** UVM Medical Center

**Town/City:** Milton

**Topic:** Hospital Budget

**Comment:** Thank you for the work you do to ensure that healthcare remains affordable to all Vermonters. Your role is significant, and includes many considerations when making decisions. I strongly urge you to accept the UVM Medical Center budget as presented. I am not from Vermont; I grew up outside of Montreal, Canada. Amenities (and hospitals) are abundant. There are multiple teaching hospitals, where cutting edge medicine and care can be sought. When I moved to Vermont, one of the main considerations I had was the availability of this type of care. I wanted to make sure that I (and my family) could live in an area where Academic Medicine was paramount. Academic Medicine not only provides an advancement of medicine through research, but also invests in the training and education of our current physicians, who will be the ones caring for us for many years to come. Again, one of my main considerations was the ability to receive specialized care, near where I live. I did not want to have to travel 3+ hours to obtain any potential care that I, or my family needed. My children have both had health complications, which required them to see pediatric specialty clinics. Without Academic Medicine, this may only have been available if we had traveled to Boston or Philadelphia. The fact that we can receive care in our home state was significant. It requires less time off work for parents, and less time missed from school for the children. As with all things, I am aware that there are additional costs that come with Academic Medicine, including funding for Graduate Medical Education. The budget that UVM Medical Center has presented is not unreasonable; the requests enable the organization to prioritize patient care, focus on new, advanced medical techniques and practices, and re-invest in their employees (who then stay with the organization longer, providing better patient care with less turnover...). If we take a step back, by reducing the UVM Medical Center's budget, which would require that they remove certain aspects of patient care availability, we could be increasing costs for patients. Patients who need specialty care may now need to go out of state, therefore incurring gas and hotel charges, more missed time from work/school, as well as out-of-network provider and hospital payments. Please consider approving the UVM Medical Center budget as presented. This will allow a revenue stream that can support the advancement of medicine and treatment of Vermont communities, as well as meet the needs of direct patient care. Please approve this budget, to continue to cement one of the main reasons I moved to the Burlington, Vermont area. Thank you.

**Post Comment:** Yes