

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

**Submit Time:** 2024-10-09

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**Affiliation:**

**Town/City:** Montpelier

**Topic:** Community Engagement: Hospital Sustainability and Act 167

**Comment:** Well, so we have this report now that finally shows what we have all known for so long. It is now in plain sight how American health care, based on the principles of that peculiar American fantasy called "the free-market," which is itself nonexistent, is a profound failure. Dr. Hamory's report has proved this beyond a reasonable doubt. It is an open question whether we needed this study in the first place to prove what we all know, but Act 167 has done a great service in putting it out there into the open. The question is what we will do with this report. Will it simply go into the attic to be forgotten among the cobwebs like the plethora of other studies we've done on this subject? Will the rich and powerful make sure that our state government will do either nothing or as little as possible on this report so that they can protect their financial standing that we, the patients, pay so much for in co-pays, deductibles, fees (what are these?), premiums, and state taxes? Every year, the hospitals/insurers want higher and higher rate increases and the unlucky GMCB is forced to balance these requests against our ability to finance them. There is always some excuse for these increases, but it makes you wonder how many black holes this money is disappearing into. And with these increases, our service for this money simply correspondingly gets worse. Where do we go from here? Will we persist with the ACOs and the Ahead models that only rearrange the deck chairs under the same umbrella with a different name and add layers of administration onto our administratively top heavy system to extract more and more money from us for less and less in return? How many millions does the stop strata of CEOs at UVMHN cost us every year as we experience longer wait times? I once read that it was about \$11 million. Will we make another act to finance yet another study that follows this one? I hope that Dr. Hamory's findings will not simply end up in the recycle bin. Perhaps it is time to resurrect Act 48, which is still on the books, and which could have prevented all or much of this, and to bring about a health care system that is not a wealth extraction system based on monopolies, but a system that cares for all of us. We could do this if we wanted to.

**Post Comment:** Yes