

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 5/30/2023

Name: J. Companion

Affiliation: JMM & Associates

Town/City: Colchester

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment:

Dear Chair Foster and Members of the Green Mountain Care Board, Our accounting firm has been made aware of the VT hospitals' request to completely ignore established budget guidance and seek a collective \$87 million increase; this information is extremely worrisome and disturbing. Per its most recent rate filing, BCBSVT indicated that 2/3 of its 14.5% requested increase is the result of INCREASED HOSPITAL COSTS; this is before taking into account any further increase in expenses is considered. Vermont businesses and their employees absolutely cannot continue to pay for these increases, particularly if they continue to increase with no set restrictions. The ever-rising costs prevent us from reinvesting in our business - impeding our ability to grow and increase our workforce. We've struggled to hang on this long by examining every opportunity to reduce costs and administrative overhead – continually adjusting to the changing landscape of our market. We have been committed to this because we value our employees and know how important health insurance is to their financial security and peace of mind.

We respectfully request that the GMCB exercise its full authority to limit any increase in hospital costs and require them to adjust to their market. Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

Post Comment: Yes