

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

**Submit Time:** 10/31/2023

**Name:** Kim

**Affiliation:** Emergency Dept. Tech/Secretary

**Town/City:** St. Johnsbury,

**Topic:** Hospital Budget

**Comment:** I strongly believe it is imperative for rural community hospitals not to be consolidated given how spread out each are from one another. Patients are less likely to seek out their healthcare needs at the hospital if they have to travel even further away in order to be seen and treated especially with the continual rising of gas prices. Also, some patients may choose not to go to the hospital if their local hospital is consolidated to one further away. It makes no sense to consolidate hospitals. Remember, inflation due to the pandemic (COVID) is the reason why things regardless of healthcare have increased drastically. We certainly don't see the cost of our groceries decreasing in price nor do we see gas prices decreasing much in price. Please take this into consideration that inflation effects "everything" and by consolidating hospitals is not the answer.

**Post Comment:** Yes