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Name

Liz Curry

Town/City

Burlington

Topic

Hospital Budgets

Comment

Dear GMCB,

I read the VT Digger article today with our multi-million dollar compensated CEO of UVM MC whining all the way to the bank about process, not substance, with regards to GMCB's adjustments to the UVM MC budget. In particular, this comment from Brumstead caught my eye, "Although the Board articulated many other "factors" it might consider when reviewing hospital budgets—including a catch-all 'other relevant factors proposed during the budget review process'—it did not indicate how it might take account of any of those factors, much less anything resembling a standard governing their use by hospitals or the GMCB. "

I say - Good For You. I urge you not to play Brumstead's game. Governing bodies require discretion when reviewing large amounts of financial data that are so industry-specific that the presenting agency can easily hide the money. Anyone who has worked in government and nonprofits with multimillion dollar budgets knows how easy it is to pad here and there so that you comply with the overarching regulatory standard, but skirt it at the same time.

Because of Covid, I am a masters-degree level educated and formerly high income middle class parent who finds our family on Medicaid. It is the BEST insurance I have ever had. I could never imagine what free health insurance was like before and EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE IT. Our society would be completely transformed if we had free health care. We'd reduce stress and health complications by billions. When I hear a millionaire CEO of a hospital or health care insurance company whine, I can't believe my ears. It is indecent for Brumstead and the senior level administrators to threaten the public, as represented by you, over health care costs when they are causing the disparities that the rest of us live with.

For most of my working life, my family has had to take on college debt for our kids, car loans, and scrimp and save in order to pay health care deductibles and co-payments. If I counted up the amount we've spent on deductibles and co-pays over the past 25 years of working, it would probably pay an entire senior level salary.

Please tell them to suck it up and bring our health care costs down. Thank you very much.