

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 5/25/2023

Name: Laurie Childers

Affiliation: John Graham Housing and Services

Town/City: Vergennes

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: I have been working for small businesses here in Vermont for the last 30 years and for at least 20 of those years, the employer's health insurance premiums have increased annually by double digit percentage for their employee's health insurance premiums. The percentage of health insurance premium for JGHS' lowest paid staff's (\$16/hr) at full time is 24% of their pay for the Silver plan. 24% of their wages plus the potential thousands of dollars of out-of-pocket medical costs not covered by insurance. THAT IS NOT SUSTAINABLE! What is the reason hospitals have increased their budgets by \$86 million in a year? There was a big build out that left patients' private rooms with couches. Why did we allow that kind of money to be spent on plush treatment when many of our citizen's don't even have basic health care? When are these increases going to stop? There are no other industries that have sustained those kinds of price increases over time! Additionally, the cost shift from the insurance providers to the insureds has been extraordinary in the same time period. These cost shifts have contributed to the unsustainable growth in this country wealth/income gap. Are there any other industries that has sustained that kind of cost increases for their customers over the last 30 years? If you can't do something this year, put something in place for the future to stop this insanity and help get basic health care to those who need it.

Post Comment: Yes