

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 5/24/2023

Name: Mark Bowen

Affiliation: Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital

Town/City: Berlin

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: I am writing to ask the GMCB to reconsider your FY 2024 budget guidance for Vermont's hospitals. Your proposed growth rate of 0.1 percent stands to lead to a statewide operating loss of \$82M and will only add to the tremendous challenges our hospitals already face due to staffing shortages and inflation, housing shortages, and the after effects of the covid pandemic. The guidance you propose will seriously compromise our hospitals' ability to provide critical and essential services. My local hospital, NVRH, in particular, will need to cut back on services in order to meet this draconian guidance. In the big picture, financial handcuffs such as these undermine the stability of these essential institutions and only add to the difficulties of managing them. Surely you can come up with more sophisticated and focused ways than this of ensuring the affordability and financial stability of health care in this state.

Post Comment: Yes