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Sent on: Thursday, May 16, 2024 12:40:02 AM

To: GMCB - CON<GMCB.CON@vermont.gov>; Foster, Owen<Owen.Foster@vermont.gov>; Lunge, Robin<Robin.Lunge@vermont.gov>; Murman, David<David.Murman@vermont.gov>; Walsh, Thom<Thom.Walsh@vermont.gov>; Holmes, Jessica A.<Jessica.A.Holmes@vermont.gov>; Barber, Michael<Michael.Barber@vermont.gov>; Barrett, Susan<Susan.Barrett@vermont.gov>; Bredice, Tara<Tara.Bredice@vermont.gov>; Beliveau, Laura<Laura.Beliveau@vermont.gov>; Jerry, Donna<Donna.Jerry@vermont.gov>; LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>

Subject: Public Comment: Certificate of Need

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 5/16/2024 12:39:58 AM

Name: Peter A. Cooper

Affiliation: N/A

Town/City: Shelburne

Topic: Health Insurance Rate Review

Comment: Healthcare throughout the USA, including VT, confronts monumental challenges: too costly, too many under and uninsured. The UVM Medical Center's proposal for an Outpatient Surgery Center for \$130 million does little to address basic healthcare problems -- preventative and public healthcare needs for all Vermonters. Yes, the OSC will do much for UVM Medical Center by pulling in patients from a wider catchment area and keeping medical specialist busy, but do we really need to spend \$130 million for an OSC that represents the "latest bright, shiny object" money can buy? A much smaller OSC could address some of the problem, leaving many millions for more basic medical needs, prevention, and local clinics. Does this project build on cooperation with other hospitals and health care facilities? If so, how? This OSC proposal has many moving parts, all of which are presented as working seamlessly over the next few years: However, issues persist include possible cost overruns for building; recruitment and training of staff; suggested savings for patients when insurance costs keep jumping; the claim that "this project is about patients, not profit"; and the unanswered question of how abandoned operating rooms at Fanny Allen will be used to service the public's health needs. If this proposed OSC is looked at as a way to make money it will be aligned with how most American healthcare is viewed. That is a major problem. If healthcare is viewed primarily as a public good, different choices become apparent. GMCB should pare back this project and support basic healthcare needs elsewhere that address public need. I trust you have many good choices. Thanks for reading.

Post Comment: Yes