

**From:** LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>  
**Sent on:** Friday, May 24, 2024 12:54:38 AM  
**To:** LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Health Insurance Rate Review

A public comment has been received.

Name: Weiwei Wang

Town: South Burlington

Affiliation: VT Professionals of Color Network

Email: weiwei@vtpoc.net

Topic:Health Insurance Rate Review

Comment: The almost 20% increase in health insurance costs will greatly impact my growing organization, as well as small business owners that we work with. VT PoC has grown a lot over the last year and one of the greatest draws of talent to our organization is full coverage of health insurance for our full-time staff (not dependents). This helps to ensure that our employees are taken care of and so that we can retain them on staff as well as in the state. With the 19% increase, it will be difficult to continue growing our organization both in terms of increase in salaries (which we won't be able to do due to cost of insurance) or additional hires (which we would like to do). We work hard to be able to pay for this human right for our staff, and we know many nonprofit orgs that have larger staffs and budgets can't afford health insurance period. Additionally, we work with small BIPOC owned businesses, many of whom already can't afford health insurance for themselves or their employees (if they have them). This increase will prove to be overwhelming for the small business community, especially those who are starting off and are thinking about getting health insurance. Overall, the impact is astronomical for small nonprofits and for small businesses.

Post Comment: Yes