

**A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.**

**Submit Time:** 5/25/2023

**Name:** Robert Areson

**Affiliation:** Richmond Family Medicine

**Town/City:** Williston

**Topic:** Hospital Budget

**Comment:** I write to respectfully request that the GMCB stick to its originally set budget for the VAHHS and not grant the increases it is requesting. Having met with Chair Foster recently, I hope that the message from private practitioners such as myself is clear - we are under the exact same constraints as the hospitals and are currently working hard to stay afloat in an increasingly challenging financial environment. Our survival depends on our own efforts to control costs, run a lean system, and offer high quality care in an efficient way. The hospitals' request to increase their budget from my perspective represents an inability to make the same efforts that we (independent private practice) do by necessity. At the risk of sounding antagonistic, hospital budgets can longer be perpetually approved without careful consideration of the efficiency with which they use the funds already granted. I relate to their request but am opposed to sending more money their way until Vermonters are clearly shown to benefit, which as of now they (including you and me) are not.

**Post Comment:** Yes