

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 11/2/2023

Name: Suzanne Forbes

Affiliation:

Town/City: Dorset

Topic: Access to Healthcare

Comment: I attended the community meeting but was unable to comment. I would like to mention the issue of access to healthcare. When we moved to Vermont 4 years ago there were no providers in our area taking new patients. We had to go to a concierge MD in Manchester and pay for services. 2 years later Northshire hired MD's who were taking new patients, so we switched to them. There simply are not enough MD's to take care of the residents in our area. Northshire MD's have 2000 patients each. There needs to be incentives to get MD's to practice in Vermont and there needs to be housing for them. One new MD had to wait 18 months before housing became available for his family in the Manchester area. Also, access to some specialists is very poor. We had to wait 12 months to see a dermatologist in Bennington and had to wait 4 months to see a cardiologist at Dartmouth. There are no interventional cardiologists who practice in Vermont. Ambulance services are also spread very thin in our area. The first time we called 911 we had to wait 35 minutes for the ambulance to arrive because the Manchester crew was out on another call, so the Arlington crew had to come to Dorset. Waiting this long for an ambulance certainly could result in a very poor outcome for the patient. These are very real concerns that need to be addressed so that Vermonters can receive better healthcare. Thank you.

Post Comment: Yes