

**From:** LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>  
**Sent on:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 4:05:24 PM  
**To:** GMCB - ACO<GMCB.ACO@vermont.gov>; GMCB - Board Members<GMCB.BoardMembers@vermont.gov>; Bredice, Tara<Tara.Bredice@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Accountable Care Organization (ACO) 2023-12-05T16:05:18Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

**Submit Time:** 12/5/2023 4:05:18 PM

**Name:** Robin Ekstrom, RN

**Affiliation:** Retired

**Town/City:** Putney VT

**Topic:** Accountable Care Organization

**Comment:** I am strongly opposed to the management of ACOs by commercial entities, particularly for-profit private equity funded entities, as exemplified by the bid or budget submitted by Vytalize Health to manage the Mountain Community Health Center in Bristol and Little Rivers in Orange County. Management of care organizations by commercial entities has not been shown to reduce costs (Our Patients, Their Profits; Physicians for a National Health Program). My own experience as a nurse working in med-surg, emergency care, and hospice, indicated that it is precisely the bedside interventions with the greatest easily achieved benefit to both patient health and systemic cost reduction, such as ensuring continuity of care between healthcare providers and facilities, that tend to be compromised by management focused on short-term bottom-line metrics. Current rates of increase in healthcare costs are unsustainable. ACOs provide one model for reducing the rate of increase to manageable levels. The imposition of commercial entities onto that model is not necessary, and in fact guarantees costs that would not otherwise exist such as profits for a private-equity company such as Vytalize Health. Transitioning to ACOs provides a window for Vermont to move away from commercial entities accountable to a limited number of shareholders with unknown commitment to Vermont and toward a Statewide system accountable only to Vermonters.

**Post Comment:** Yes