

From: LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>

Sent on: Monday, August 21, 2023 9:09:35 PM

To: GMCB - Health Systems Finances<GMCB.HealthSystemsFinances@vermont.gov>; Bredice, Tara<Tara.Bredice@vermont.gov>; LaJeunesse, Kristen<Kristen.Lajeunesse@vermont.gov>

Subject: Public Comment: Hospital Budget 2023-08-21T21:09:33Z

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 8/21/2023 9:09:33 PM

Name: Erik Weinmann

Affiliation:

Town/City:

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: My name is Erik Weinmann, and I am a phlebotomist at UVMHC. I want UVMHC to start valuing us. Not to just send mass emails stating how grateful they are for our dedication and efforts. The hospital needs to take actions to ensure that their most valuable resources, the support staff union members, receive a living wage. My 17 year old son makes \$18.00 an hour. My current wage as a phlebotomist at UVMHC is \$16.36. If it were not for the salary of my fiancé, we would not be able to afford to live in the state of Vermont. At my current wage, I am eligible for EBT and Vermont State Health Insurance. This is absolutely ludicrous and disgraceful. At one of our last bargaining meetings, I stood up in front of my fellow union members and asked the UVMHC Bargaining Table, "Give me one reason why I should keep working at this facility with the wage you currently pay me." I was given no response. I should not and all of us should not be eligible for Vermont State Health Insurance or EBT resources. The hospital, UVMHC, should be disgusted and disgraced with themselves. The Support Staff Union deserve a living wage. We are the backbone of this hospital. Dr. Leffler himself has made this statement on two occasions that I can remember. He constantly tells us that we need to make sacrifices. The irony truly makes me sick. Sacrifices? Why is it that the workers, the front line of UVMHC have to make sacrifices? We're asking the board to consider ensuring that the UVM Medical Center prioritizes in our budget the most important resource; employees. We have been undervalued for too long.

Post Comment: Yes