

From: Elise Brunelle

Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 2:23 PM

Dear Chair Mullin and Members of the Green Mountain Care Board,

Increased hospital health care costs have a direct impact on Vermonters in the form of double digit increases on health insurance premiums (which the GMCB recently approved) and on claims paid in reaching plan deductibles. They also directly impact the potential for a group to share in any claim surplus.

Vermont families and businesses like ours cannot afford these increases. We, like all Vermont businesses, must continually adjust to the changing landscape in our markets – examining every opportunity to reduce costs and administrative overhead. We expect hospitals to do the same.

The GMCB's recent budget guidance allows for an 8.6% increase which is well above the usual 3.5% annual increase target. Hospitals' requests far exceed your guidance. Even if the Board follows its own guidance, the cost of care will be out of reach for many Vermonters – resulting in an even smaller population shouldering a greater burden. The thought of even higher increases is unfathomable.

As the ED of a non-profit Vermont business who cannot afford double-digit health care increases for our staff, I request that GMCB stick with no more than original budget guidance.

Thank you.

Elise Brunelle | Executive Director
Vermont Symphony Orchestra