

Submitted on Fri, 08/19/2022 - 08:36

Name

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Affiliation, if applicable

UVMMC

Town/City

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Topic

Hospital Budgets

Comment

Dear Green Mountain Care Board,

The cycle has to stop!! The cycle of the hospitals continuing to ask to increase their rates every year. The cycle of those on public assistance using and abusing healthcare dollars. This is going to bankrupt the middle class eventually. I am a nurse on the front line. I see many avenues where waste is happening, and it needs to be curtailed. The biggest waste is coming from those who do not have to work hard for their health insurance, but rather have it paid for them (aka public assistance and Medicaid). They have no sweat equity, and do not appreciate the value of the dollar. YOU, the members of the Green Mountain Care Board, have the influence to go to the state level, where laws are made, and tax dollar money is doled out. Laws need to be created that require some input by the recipient. It may be in the form of education, it may be in the form graduating to employment and self-reliance and in may be in the form of volunteering, but in most situations, there needs to be an element of earning their funding in some shape or form. While I agree that public assistance has its place, when programs were initiated, they were created to be a "safety net for those who came upon unforeseen misfortune" and meant to be temporary until they could get back on their feet. Now, public assistance has become a way of life for those who are more than happy to let someone else do the hard work. There is a wise, very well-known financial businessman who understands that " you value what you invest in".... translated meaning: what you work hard for you will value and take care of. I do not have a degree in business, nor am I a CPA, however, I can tell you the madness has to stop. By madness, I mean continuing to pass the cost of healthcare to the middle class!! In the early 90's, the state of Tennessee nearly went bankrupt in their attempt at socialized medicine. Thankfully some attorneys who also happened to be politicians stepped in and turned things around. I encourage you to go to the lawmakers and create better regulations about how Medicaid is doled out, allow healthcare institutions to have consequences when their services are being abused. I recommend you look at the number of positions of those in "glass towers" to see if management is top heavy. I encourage you to look into hidden business tax filings to find the hidden yearend bonuses given to already high paid executives. I encourage you to look at the European countries and Scandinavian countries to see how they manage their health care systems. I encourage you to also look at how the European countries value and incentivize their middle class. This is not something that will have a quick remedy, but I implore you to initiate the change that needs to happen before the healthcare bubble bursts.

Very respectfully yours,

Kristine Ericksen BSN, RN, CRN

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Yes