

Submitted on Wed, 08/17/2022 - 13:52

Name

Anne Houle

Affiliation, if applicable

Granite Group Insurance Trust

Town/City

BARRE

Topic

Hospital Budgets

Comment

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

I write to you on behalf of the Granite Group Insurance Trust Board of Trustees. We are a nonprofit trust located in Barre, VT that provides medical benefits to the granite and stone industries of Vermont as well as other national stone companies.

We are shocked and appalled by the hospitals' proposed 2023 rate increases of up to 19.9%. Our 2021 hospital claims totaled 3 million dollars. With the proposed 19.9% increase hospital claims could potentially cost an additional \$600,000 in 2023. An increase of this magnitude would substantially impact our group employers and participating members (in the form of a double digit increase to our health premiums) which in turn negatively impacts our local communities. Permitting these unprecedented and unsustainable requests would further destabilize already strained health insurance plans.

All businesses are struggling to adjust to today's market and Vermont families/businesses simply cannot afford these increases. The GMCB's budget guidance is more imperative than ever and we ask that you adhere to the original budget guidance when evaluating the proposed rates.

Respectfully,

Anne Houle, Treasurer
Granite Group Insurance Trust
Barre Belt 401k Plan

Your public comment will be shared with the Board. To promote transparency, the Board sometimes posts public comments on its website. Are you okay with the Board posting your comment? If no, your comment will be sent to the Board but not posted.

Yes