

**From:** Laurie Quinn

**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2022 8:02 AM

Dear Chairperson Mullin and fellow GMCB members,

I write to you as the president of a Williston nonprofit with about 80 employees and a 39-year history here in our state of helping kids, families, and teachers with success in learning. The Stern Center for Language and Learning is greatly concerned about the rate increases requested by Vermont hospitals, and the health care premium increases that will have a huge impact on our staff and our organization. Double digit increases in health insurance premiums quite literally make it increasingly impossible for our organization to support decent health care options for our hardworking team. I fear that we will lose employees in an already tight hiring market because of these health care increases, and that being able to cover more of them through a lean operating budget will lead to squeezed services to our community. No one goes into educational nonprofit work to grow rich. We are a mission-focused team of people who just want to ensure our own families can get preventative care and be covered in the event of an emergency. Your budget guidance at 8.6% already made us worried, but we recognize that the system is strained and breaking in multiple places, and your options are not plentiful. Still, I implore you to hold to that level, as the impact of anything greater is truly scary for me as the leader of an organization whose people make a powerful contribution to our state every day, kid by kid.

Thank you for your work on this vital issue.

Respectfully,  
Laurie

Laurie Quinn, Ph.D.  
President

