

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

We are disturbed to hear of UVM's request to increase their rates as of April 1st. It would be extremely unfortunate and unfair to permit this increase as it would have a considerable impact on our company's health care costs - at a point when we cannot plan accordingly. The premiums set for our health plan are predicated on expected claim costs projected on the rates approved by the GMCB for the year. To change those rates drastically impacts our claims cost and the potential for the return of any surplus.

We do not understand how UVM's request (or any hospital's request) can even be considered at this point in time. We, like all Vermont businesses, have to continually adjust to the changing landscape in our markets. We would expect hospitals to be on much stronger footing to do the same – particularly, in light of the reserves they maintain.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Comments need to be submitted by Monday or Tuesday in order to get in before the GMCB makes their decision.

Thank you,

Dr. Mark Basol
Vergennes Animal Hospital