

Christine Cooney
State Government Affairs Manager, New England



March 30, 2022

Green Mountain Care Board
c/o The Honorable Kevin Mullin, Chair
144 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Routing B6LPA
900 Cottage Grove Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Christine.Cooney@Cigna.com

Dear Chairman Mullin:

Please accept this letter regarding Cigna's concerns with midyear hospital budget increase requests currently before the Green Mountain Care Board.

Cigna Corporation is a global health service company dedicated to improving the health, well-being and peace of mind of those they serve. Cigna delivers choice, predictability, affordability and access to quality care through integrated capabilities and connected, personalized solutions that advance whole person health. All products and services are provided exclusively by or through operating subsidiaries of Cigna Corporation, including Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company, Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, Evernorth companies or their affiliates, and Express Scripts companies or their affiliates. Such products and services include an integrated suite of health services, such as medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, vision, supplemental benefits, and other related products. Cigna maintains sales capability in over 30 countries and jurisdictions, and has more than 175 million customer relationships throughout the world.

While Cigna does not routinely weigh in on ordinary rate requests, we felt it was important given the unique nature of a midyear request and the impact this decision could have on the affordability of healthcare for a number of Vermonters. As an administrator on behalf of our self-funded clients, we must share our concern that any rate increases will come out of the pockets of local employers in the region, who are already facing, and struggling with, the pressures of increased health care costs.

The annual rate setting process includes forecasted cost assumptions from the GMCB-approved hospital increases that employers and insurers previously budgeted for. A mid-year change creates uncertainty and unplanned for budgetary impacts on Vermonters who will bear the cost of such increases and the local community which can no longer afford the unsustainable cost shift that is occurring to businesses.

Escalating the cost of health care multiple times per year on Vermonters puts employers and Vermonters in an untenable situation that they did not expect or have the option to plan for. We hope you will recognize the negative impact a mid-year rate increase will have on Vermont businesses and residents.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this request currently before the board. We hope you will carefully weigh the negative impact a rate increase will have on the overall affordability of health care in Vermont.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (804.904.3473) or Christine.Cooney@cigna.com.

Thank you,

Christine Cooney
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Cigna State Government Affairs Manager, New England

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