

Submitted on Wed, 03/30/2022 - 15:11

Name

Mark Hage, Bobby-Jo Salls and Jon Steiner

Affiliation, if applicable

Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI)

Town/City

Montpelier

Topic

Hospital Budgets

Comment

March 30, 2022

Kevin Mullin

Chairperson, Green Mountain Care Board

144 State Street,

Montpelier, Vermont 05602

To Chair Mullin and Members of the Green Mountain Care Board:

As members of the Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI) management team, we are writing to express our opposition to the mid-year charge increase requests from the Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC), Vermont Medical Center (UVMCC), and Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC).

Our self-funded insurance pool, which represents a partnership between the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust and the Vermont-National Education Association, serves approximately 36,000 public school employees, active and retired, and their dependents. Every public school is a member, as is the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System and a several independent schools. We have been serving our member groups and their subscribers for more than 25 years.

The rate charge submissions under consideration will have a significant negative effect on our future reserves and premium rates, and they will negatively impact every public school district and school employee.

VEHI will feel the rate-charge increases immediately with respect to our projected reserve levels in FY22 and FY23. Our FY23 premium rates were established and approved by the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation as actuarially sound; they were based on previously approved hospital budgets. Our actuaries tell us that if the proposed rate charges are approved, our FY23 rates alone could be underfunded for active employees by as much as \$7.4 million, which will eventually ripple out into our FY24 premium rates. The bottom line is that these rate charges, if approved, will make health insurance less affordable for schools and school employees.

We understand you have just denied the rate-charge increase request for Rutland Regional Medical Center. We ask that you follow suit with the other two hospitals. Please do not grant them the mid-year

charge increases they are seeking.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Hage, VEHI/Vermont-NEA
Bobby-Jo Salls, VEHI/VSBIT
Jon Steiner, VEHI/VSBIT

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