

From: Kelley Tessier

Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 7:35 AM

Subject: Re: BCBS changes

Good morning Christina, I really hope you don't regret giving me your contact information...Just let me know, I do accept boundaries well:) Please share this with the Green Mountain Board. I read the seven days article regarding UVM asking for a rate increase of 10%. This as you are aware of is pretty concerning to us that have commercial insurance, especially self employed/small businesses. I am barely affording what I have and the only reason I signed up for insurance this year was at your encouragement with the extra COVID relief money which will help my premium a tiny bit, at least I hoped. Would this 10% happen this year or would this impact premiums for next year?

I am so thankful for Sara Teachout's comments in that article and I really hope the board hears her loud and clear. No one can afford this increase. No one. UVM Medical has a reserve, I understand the logic for having one, but they really need to use some of it to absorb their losses. Many of us small business owners who pay commercial insurance do not have reserves, where are we supposed to go for back up funds for this increase? UVM medical clearly has a budget problem that they have a responsibility to get under control. THEY GET PAID TO FIGURE THIS OUT. I understand that the last couple of years have created challenges with COVID, inflation, etc., however these budget shortfalls are not new for UVM Medical and continue to increase each year. And as Teachout said "no one is coming out of COVID unscathed" and that means UVM medical needs to adjust their budget as well. I will be forced to drop my commercial insurance if a rate increase goes into effect this year. I can barely afford what I have and with a very high deductible, it will not make financial sense for me to pay more for this plan. With these continued increases I am almost positive I will not purchase health insurance next year and I would assume I will not be the only one. People being forced to drop their commercial insurance because it is not affordable will further impact the budget, less people buying plans, less money. This problem is not going to go away by increasing rates each year. Please Green Mountain Care Board hold this hospital accountable to their budget and stop these increases. Explore other solutions, Vermonters are being drained financially by this never ending increase with UVM medical. Thank you for your time.