

2022 Individual and Small Group Filings

Written Comments Submitted to GMCB

May 10, 2021 through July 28, 2021

1. Submitted on: July 17, 2021

Submitted by: Amos Kornfeld, Norwich

Comment: Dear GMCB board, It's deja vu all over again. Another year, another significant proposed rate increase. It is time for this to stop, and you have the ability to help make healthcare more affordable for Vermonters. Please do so and do not allow BCBSVT and MVP to increase their rates. These companies often request significant annual rate increases, and these costs are passed directly onto enrolled Vermonters. Also, the state's contract with OneCare Vermont should not be renewed as it is not helping those it ought to be. Thank you for considering my thoughts.

5. Submitted on: July 20, 2021

Submitted by: Megan Browning

Comment: To Whom it May Concern, I am writing to oppose the proposed rate hikes and support the comments submitted by Rural Vermont on behalf of farmers in Vermont. As a farmer myself, and a service provider, I am well aware that health insurance is a major issue for farmers and farm workers. While farmers are doing physical labor and producing food to nourish our communities, many are left without health insurance because they cannot afford it. Furthermore, many farm owners would like to be able to provide health insurance to their employees but cannot because the cost is too high. I strongly encourage you to keep rates as low as possible and meet the needs of those in our community who are providing health care in the form of nourishing food. It's time we return the favor by making health insurance accessible and affordable for these folks.

Thank you,

Megan Browning

6. Submitted on: July 20, 2021

Submitted by: Austin Davis

Comment: Members of the Green Mountain Care Board, The Lake Champlain Chamber is appreciative of the significant work done by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont to lower health insurance premiums for 2022 and supports its work to offer pharmaceutical price savings. Unmerging the individual and group marketplaces have a significant impact on our members looking to purchase health insurance for their employees. The timing of the first decrease in business health insurance plans since 2010 could not have been better. As our members enter a recovery stage of a global pandemic which required them to dramatically curtail their operations, and by association revenues, to protect public health, the prospect of one of their largest expenses being reduced by 7.8% is very welcomed news. Small businesses are struggling to return to normal in Vermont, in particular, those that choose to offer health insurance coverage with fewer than 100 employees. As we all know, the ever-increasing cost of health care limits the opportunities for businesses to innovate and invest in their workforce and new opportunities. The state faces many health care challenges and health care reform is always evolving. Separating the individual health insurance pool from the small group purchasers (small businesses, non-profits, and municipalities) is a welcome development and one that we hope can continue beyond 2022.

Note: Lake Champlain Chamber submitted the same comment as a letter.