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**Subject:** [External] Medicaid

[External]

Medicaid and Vermont Primary care has been chronically underfunded for the past 10 years and is in a state of collapse. Physician owned practices such as ours got little COVID relief (basically one PPP loan) and with continued increases in all of our costs that we cannot pass on to the consumer are no longer able to provide wages to retain providers and staff to compete. One Care, Insurance Companies, and specialists are dumping on primary care low yield administrative tasks and the burden of paperwork, endless telephone calls, having to resend prescriptions due to shortages/PAs, shifts in patient attitudes/entitlement, staffing shortages, etc, etc have taken their toll. I closed for my first time in 15 years to Medicaid and Medicare last year after we struggle to afford basic updated office space. Last year I earned the same as 2011 and the past 2 months I have actively started looking into fellowships so I can leave primary care, the profession that I once so loved. I can tell you, I am one of many physicians who are thinking the unthinkable and are desperate to love the field they once loved so much.

If you want to control expenses I would strongly encourage you to put in some sort of copay or have patients share the cost so they stop overutilizing the healthcare system. But relying on the good will of primary care has taken its toll.

Please act now.

A. Regan

Owner Evergreen Family Health Center