

Dear Members of the Vermont Senate Health and Welfare Committee:

I practiced Primary Care Pediatrics in Vermont for 44 years. I have extensive experience in PREVENTION OF DISEASE as a pediatrician, past president of the Vermont AAP and I also Medical Director of Primary Care at Gifford In Randolph. Although now retired for 2 years I am still active in the Vermont AAP.

**As a Pediatrician I strongly understand the need for PREVENTION!**

**I strongly encourage you to support S.151 to help support primary care in Vermont.**

Specifically the following sections:

- **Expanding coverage for colorectal screening.** Removing a fixed age from the requirement that payers provide no-cost colorectal cancer screening. Current state statute only requires screenings to be covered beginning at age 50, while [United States Preventive Services Task Force Recommendations](#) support beginning screening at age 45. **NOTE: MY BROTHER-IN-LAW DIED AT 48 FROM COLON CANCER.**
- **Minor consent to STI prevention.** VMS strongly supports moving from state statute that allows minors to consent only to STI treatment - after contracting an STI - to allowing minors to consent to STI prevention. There are now a number of effective preventive measures for STIs. **CLEARLY WE ALL KNOW THAT PREVENTION OF STI's IS THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT THE COMPLICATIONS OF THE DISEASE AND THE NEED FOR TREATMENT**
- **Study on required primary care spend in Vermont.** Given the need to align Vermont's goals on primary care spending with potential participation in the AHEAD Model, VMS supports moving forward with next steps in setting a statewide all-payer primary care spend target and methodology.

Louis A DiNicola, MD, FAAP