

Tuesday 4/19/16

Hello Rep. Lippert,

As Deputy Commissioner French testified to on April 8th in the House Committee on Health Care, the Department of Vermont Health Access is respectfully requesting that S.215 be modified to exclude Medicaid from the provisions in Section e (4).

If Medicaid is included in S.215, there would be fiscal and programmatic implications for the state and DVHA. DVHA would no longer be able to use selective contracting for eyeglasses; as a result the Department would expect to see an increased spend on supplies. DVHA's current contract process is cost-effective; it allows for bulk buying of high-quality supplies at low prices. Having relationships with multiple suppliers would be more costly and more time consuming, than a single supplier, to DVHA. This type of contracting is common among state Medicaid programs. Several state Medicaid programs use selective contracting with one vendor for vision supplies, including Maine and Massachusetts.

Please see the following proposed modification to the bill:

(7) "Vision care plan" means an integrated or stand-alone plan, policy, or contract providing vision benefits to enrollees with respect to covered services or covered materials, or both, but does not include Medicaid.

Thank you,
Lindsay

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