

Margaret (Maggie) Newton

Dear Senate Health and Welfare Committee Members,

I urge you to pass bills H.207 and S.88.

Primary care is basic to sound health care economic policy, used to screen out unneeded specialist referral and hospitalizations that drive up health care costs dramatically, especially the costs of preventable hospitalizations. This bill also enables uninsured people, and those denied access in other ways, to see a primary care provider, rather than having to rush to the Emergency Room when desperate.

I am concerned that the hospitals may oppose these bills. If the bills become law, how will the state permit transparency to have public view of hospital budgets, to compare before and after? After all, the hospitals heavily depend on Federal and State money. There is no law requiring hospital transparency. We need this to have the transparency.

Please pass these bills.

Thank you for your important work.

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