

Christopher Halpin

Dear Senate Health and Welfare Committee Members,

I'm on VEHI and I'm very well-covered as part of my employment benefits at a price that's affordable to me. As a para-educator, however, I don't even make enough money on which to live. Still, I dream of a day on which all Vermonters have access to health care with almost the same ease we have access to state highways.

Even though VEHI does a very good job keeping down rate increases, school boards balk when discussing the cost of health care when we sit at the bargaining table. I wonder, then, how the State of Vermont would fare as one insurance purchasing pool.

Far too many people, especially young people, are underinsured! I find frightening employers' swing toward pushing people into high deductible health care plans. How many Vermonters have to be rapped by paying a \$5000, \$6000, or \$10,000 deductible before our economy sags under that strain?

Please support H.207/S.88

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