

Damon Lane

Dear Senate Health and Welfare Committee Members,

I was very happy to hear about H.207/S.88. Increasing health care availability has long been the goal of so many people in Vermont and I am glad not everyone gave up when the Governor dumped single payer. I had been skeptical when he took it up as it was never his issue, and now we can take it back as our issue. We can't trust him to lead on it, but he will sign related bills.

While I am lucky enough to have excellent health insurance entirely paid for by my employer I believe there are so many reasons coverage needs to be extended to everyone, and the lower cost primary care is a good place to start if the Statehouse isn't ready to cover it all. I have experienced lack of freedom due to health insurance and having it tied to employment is a drag on people's ability to change jobs, start businesses, or leave relationships. We need to get all coverage tied instead of residency to solve those issues, but primary care will get us part of the way there.

If single payer is out for this year, you owe us to work for the passage of this one. Likewise if a carbon tax is off the table, you owe us to pass a strong H.40. I understand Vermont "can't" lead on all issues (this is often said, but no one offers why not. Yes we are exposed to legal trouble on the GMO bill, but I don't know of parallel threats for these two issues.) Anyway, if we're aren't going to do the right thing, we should at least move towards it and provide primary care.

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