

Laurie Larson

Dear Senate Health and Welfare Committee Members,

I work as a health care advocate and I witness daily the inefficiencies and cruelties of the state having to determine eligibility for health access. As Dr. Martin Luther King said, 'Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.' I have seen horror stories that make Michael Moore's shockumentary "SICKO" look like a walk in the park. And this is in Vermont.

If Vermont fails at Universal Health Care, Vermont should be ashamed. Forcing people to become "eligible" for help, and making it so complicated that HAEU and VHC can't figure out the rules or apply them evenly or even legally, should be a punishable crime so that some accountability can be achieved.

Universal Access would get rid of the eligibility/application horror stories, and would save bucketloads of money. Public financing would get rid of the actual theft and misappropriation of people's premiums that is going on by third party contractors and the state itself.

Please recognize the seriousness of the brokenness of the current system, and follow through on promises made years ago. We need publicly financed universal health care now.

Sincerely,

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