

From: Mary Alice Bisbee [mailto:maryalicebisbee@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2018 1:48 PM
To: Loring Starr
Subject: S.53

Hi Loring, I plan to attend your committee's discussion of S. 53 tomorrow around 10:30 AM. I sent each of them a copy of this letter which you may want to print out for each of them.

Hope to see you tomorrow!

Maryalice

Dear House Health Care Committee members:

Along with many, many Vermonters, I have been watching bill S. 53 on its journey through the Senate. It was just fine, until it reached Appropriations where the whole guts of the bill were taken apart!

The bill is about a publicly financed UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CARE program, not insurance based, that would be open to ALL Vermonters with no copays or deductibles. It would leave plenty of room for private health insurers to supplement when health problems are too great to be prevented at the outset but this new program needs to be funded publicly, by whatever means the process decides on down the road..

Think about it! If we could prevent most chronic and deadly diseases from ever getting a foot hold into someone's life and help people make important life style changes when symptoms first present, we can not only save state dollars but help ALL Vermonters and not just those who belong to unions or other large companies that can afford great benefits for their employees or the independently wealthy.

What about temporary workers, small business workers, those with minor disabilities who are never hired and those who are unable to obtain real well paying positions with benefits for many, many reasons? These are the folks who are always left out and who cost our health systems the most money in the long run. These are the folks who don't get help because they can't afford it, wait too long, and end up needing hospitalization and very expensive specialized care. This is all happening while our wonderful primary care doctors are leaving the state due to poor pay and being replaced by nurse practitioners and EMT's.

Please, bring back S. 53 as originally passed out of Senate Health & Welfare. We all need this bill and to start now to deal with the financing, the planning and the implementation of Universal Primary Care by 2022 if it is financially doable and saves money. The planning process needs to start NOW and that is all the bill asks for!

This is also an excellent way to start dealing with the huge income inequality which is pervasive here in Vermont as well as elsewhere. We don't need more residents, we need healthier residents here and now.

Peace and good luck in fulfilling your statutory duties to ALL Vermonters and thanks for listening.

Sincerely,

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