

From: jennifer berger [mailto:jb4pax@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Sunday, January 21, 2018 10:02 PM  
To: Loring Starr  
Subject: Testimony for healthcare legislation - We need Universal Healthcare

Hello. Thank you for reading this. I am writing both in principal, and also for personal reasons.

The inequity in this country, and in Vermont that has created challenges for folks with healthcare, insurance, medical care, finances, etc is not getting any better. If anything, we are entering into a crisis period nationally. Who knows what will happen in 2019, but the changes in healthcare this year are making it financially more difficult for too many.

This inequity is also affecting me. In a bigger way than ever before. I have always been grateful to have access to healthcare through the state of Vermont. I am one of the many Vermonters who holds down numerous part time jobs to make a living. Depends on the year, and who you talk to, you could consider me working class or working/middle class. I am in my mid-forties. I depend on the state insurance to get my medical/health needs met. Last year, through both a clerical error on the state's part, and a change in my income, my monthly premium (that I pay out of pocket) rose from \$34/month to \$184/month. My co-pays have quadrupled. I am now seeing my regular practitioners 1/4 of the time I was because my income is low enough, that once I pay the premium, I can't afford to pay for any other healthcare needs. Simultaneously, I cannot afford dental insurance (like the majority of Vermonters) and am developing major dental and medical issues that I can't afford to have looked at, and are becoming a health risk.

I am an educated white woman. I am not the picture of someone who can't access healthcare, yet myself, and a growing number of my peers are facing similar challenges. I urge you to consider Universal Healthcare. Vermont has often led the way, and done it's own thing, separate from the nation, when the morals and values of Vermonters lives are at stake. We literally have a moron running this country, at least Vermont can take care of its own.

Thank you,  
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Art is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it.....Bertolt Brecht