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Mary Alice Bisbee <maryalicebisbee@gmail.com>

Health Care testimony

2 messages

Mary Alice Bisbee <maryalicebisbee@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 23, 2018 at 10:13 AM

To: Mary Alice Bisbee <maryalicebisbee@gmail.com>

Thank you for the opportunity to testify tonight about primary health care. My name is Mary Alice Bisbee from Montpelier. Now in my 8th decade, I have lived through many attempts to improve our health care non-system in Vermont. The more money we seem to throw at the problem, the more new entities such as OneCare we create, the less effective it seems to become. Meanwhile the CEO's and other highly paid administrators are making out like bandits!

My primary care provider of several years retired a couple of years ago and I have had 3 new providers, none of whom really gets to know me or seemingly to care for my concerns, in the meantime. Here today and gone tomorrow, sometimes not even living in Central Vermont, shared positions with other Chittenden County entities, all under the umbrella of UVMHC. Appointments are harder to get and when I asked for a new provider within the practice, I was told that there are no other choices. There is a real shortage of primary care doctors in Vermont and around the nation.¹ Could it be that medical students see the writing on the wall? There is no money in primary care although these providers have perhaps the most challenging position; getting to know their patients and sending them in the right direction when specialty care is needed.

As an elder, I have a single payer health care system of sorts, Medicare. However, I must pay over \$200/Month for co-insurance to cover my copays and deductibles and am currently paying \$126/month out of my very low Social Security benefit just to cover my visits. Since the Medicare payment has risen every year, my Social Security monthly benefit I actually receive, has remained the same for three years at \$788.00/month, even though we supposedly received a 2.02% raise this year! There are many of us, mostly women of a certain age who spent most of our working lives as homemakers and childcare providers who must pay huge amounts of our meager incomes just to try to stay healthy.

Universal Primary Care as spelled out in H. 248 and S.53 could be an excellent way of providing real Health Care for All, a goal most Vermonters would like to see our legislature implement. Let the insurance companies write policies that only cover specialized and hospital care and use a progressive tax structure to pay to provide universal access to health care at the start. Union contracts should not be dealing with primary care access which should be equally accessible to us all; young and old, rich and poor, without co-pays or deductibles.

Taxation with representation is not a dirty word!

—
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Mary Alice Bisbee <maryalicebisbee@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 23, 2018 at 10:24 AM

To: Ned Swanberg <ned.swanberg@gmail.com>

Here is my testimony!

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