

SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATIVE BILLS H248 AND S53

Accessing Primary Care in Vermont

March 13, 2018

Anna Carey MD, Family Practice Associates, Cambridge, VT 05444

Vermonters access primary care in many ways:

Local clinics Community Health centers Emergency Departments
Veteran's Administration, Free Clinics, Hospital clinics...

Excellent care is accessed.

Unfortunately every Vermonter does not have access to health care

Instead too many Vermonters suffer from **preventable illness**

My patients:

- Decline immunizations because vaccines cost too much
- Delay blood pressure checks as they can't afford even generic medicine to prevent heart attacks and strokes
- Delay checking a measure of their blood thinner medicine increasing risk for blood clots or bleeding
- Walk in the office after 4 days of off and on chest pain
- Walk in with uncontrolled diabetes and a foot infection
- Mounting copays delay a visit for a blistering rash

The most common reason for avoiding health care is \$\$\$\$\$ MONEY\$\$\$\$\$.

People may have no insurance or high deductible insurance.

Imagine paying through a \$5000 or \$10,000 deductible.

Presently Vermont and its Legislature can pass into law two bills **H248 and S53** . At just \$48/yr Vermont will provide primary care to each Vermonter with no debilitating deductibles and copays. Money will be saved providing care to PREVENT illness and to PREVENT unnecessary complications caused by delay in accessing health care. .

Primary care treats 80-90% of all visits in the office. Vermonters will be healthier as shown by numerous studies on communities that emphasize primary care. Thank you for all your time and efforts. Please call with any concerns or questions.

Anna Carey MD

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