

From: Timothy Swartz [mailto:swartztim15@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 8:06 PM
To: Loring Starr
Subject: Access to Primary Health Care

I was not able to come to the hearing on Tuesday, but want to add my voice to the many people who spoke up for a single payer health system--and to support beginning this with guaranteed, universal primary health care. There are so many studies that show the importance of regular checkups and preventive care, for infants, children and adults. Making these services available to all will build the health of Vermont's residents from a solid foundation, and will lead to savings in health care, as health problems are caught earlier, and treated before becoming chronic whenever possible, and managed correctly from the beginning in any case. Making this a shared cost for our state reflects the importance of this sort of care for all Vermonters.

I also support this as one who has worked for a small Vermont business for 26 years. I know that the owner, who has supplied family health insurance for all of his employees for decades, has found the cost of insurance a growing burden. Setting up a system like this will reduce the burden of paying for health insurance from small business owners, who will be able to raise wages, compete for work on a more fair playing field, and attract the best employees. Our current system which ties health care coverage to employers is hard on both employees and employers. It reduces job mobility and ties the hands of all parties.

For all of these reasons, I support a VT State system providing universal primary care for all citizens.

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