

Dear Senators,

Thank you so much for your extraordinary work on the S53 Universal Primary Care bill. It is greatly appreciated by many and if it goes forward, the Vermonters will all benefit from your good work.

One suggestion I would hope you consider this morning is not to vote through the amendments suggested yesterday by Devon Green, on behalf of the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems.

Hospitals certainly have a stake in keeping people healthy and out of the emergency rooms and reducing overall costs. As non-profits, they also have a stake in the public good, and it would be a good thing to see them contribute some modest resources (compared to their overall budget) to this worthy effort.

Thus, I hope you strongly consider keeping the current references to hospital excess revenues in the bill (For Version 3.2, that would be pages 8-9 and on page 14).

Sincerely,
Ellen Oxfeld
Middlebury, Vermont