

Dear Chair Lanpher and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

Blue Cross is concerned about the language being proposed in Section E of the Appropriations bill requiring AHS to recommend a per member per month increase to commercially insured Vermonters to fund expanded Blueprint programs. This is proposing a direct increase on premiums at a time when affordability is an intractable issue. As you know, AHS recommended a pilot expansion, funded with Medicaid dollars, followed by an evaluation and analysis of the outcomes when data is available in two years, prior to automatically increasing commercial premiums. This budget language is premature and sets a troubling tone for Vermonters who are struggling to pay their monthly premiums.

As [we stated last session](#) “these programs have failed to integrate with concurrent health reform efforts and continue to lack detailed reporting to ensure transparency and the ability to accurately measure quality outcomes.” Unfortunately, this continues to remain true. Blueprint programs need to demonstrate their value through data and measurable quality outcomes like all other health care programs.

We understand that the provider community is eager to have guaranteed funding for these programs, but Vermont must strive to balance ratepayer affordability and our precious health care resources. Please consider the burden this adds to Vermonters with commercial health insurance coverage who already shoulder the largest portion of the cost of health care.

Thank you, Sara

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