

Rep. Houghton, Chair
Rep. McFaun, Vice Chair
Rep. Black, Ranking Member
Rep. Berbeco
Rep. Carpenter
Rep. Cina
Rep. Cordes, Clerk
Rep. Demar
Rep. Farlice-Rubio
Rep. Goldman
Rep. Peterson

February 6, 2024

Dear Chair Houghton and Members of the Health Care Committee,

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont supports the expansion of the Medicaid Savings Program to protect our most vulnerable older Vermonters from falling off the benefits cliff when they turn 65. Many people think that when they go onto Medicare, their out-of-pocket costs for health care will go down. But between premiums, deductibles, and 20% cost sharing, many Vermonters find that their costs actually go up significantly as they are no longer eligible for state and federal programs outlined by the Affordable Care Act.

To ensure that older Vermonters have access to the care they need, the Vermont Legislature should expand access to the Medicare Savings Program. Low-income Vermonters who do not qualify for support programs often require financial assistance at hospitals to cover emergencies or routine care. By expanding the Medicare Savings Program, hospitals and practices will benefit from a more reliable source of payment for low-income and under-insured patients.

We are leaving federal dollars on the table. Massachusetts, Maine, New York, Connecticut, Indiana and Washington D.C. have all increased the income eligibility limit for their state's Medicare Savings Program, taking advantage of federal funding to allow more residents to access free and low-cost health care.

Please support expanding the Medicare Savings Program for low-income Vermonters.

Sincerely,

Sara Teachout
Corporate Director, Government, Public & Media Relations