

Fidele Mugisha
Civics in action project
Primary care payment reform (S.197)

I'm writing this testimony to show why health care is important and express my support to S.197. I know health care helps us to maintain and improve the health of populations. This is not only for treatment of diseases and injuries, but it also helps mental health, pregnancy and more. Without health care, many people will start to lose their medicine or other treatment, which could lead to serious illness or even death.

One month ago, my two big sisters received an email telling them they are going to lose their health care insurance coverage starting April 01, 2026. They will no longer have their medicaid. We are from a big family with little kids. Both two older sisters have to take care of all of our young siblings. When they saw that email, they started getting more confused and started questioning themselves like how are they going to help my family pay rent or buy food and other things that they are responsible for. Helping my older sisters get primary care payment reform is the most important thing and would be helpful for them and all my family.

The bill S.197 is a primary care that helps pay for in Vermont by enhancing and bringing up to the blueprint payment system and setting primary care spending targets and reports to support a more sustainable and community based primary care system. However if the bill passes it will help my sisters to have their health care coverage and be able to pay for their treatment.

I moved to Vermont from Africa in March of 2024. When we arrived in the USA, we questioned how our life would get better in America. During our first year here, all of my family members received their Green mountain care cards (medicaid) in our mailbox. Every time we went to the hospital, they asked us for our medicaid number during check in, before we met our doctors. When everyone in my family had medicaid, it was good. But now, two of my sisters do not have healthcare. As an immigrant, I strongly want to believe in the American Dream. How can my sisters believe in that without having their medicaid?

Thank you for your leadership and addressing this issue. I strongly ask you to support this bill (S.197), which would help everyone who does not have health care coverage and support all the people who have been struggling to get it.

Thank you,
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