

I write this testimony from what I realize is a position of privilege. Before it became as controversial as it is now, at least to me, I became probably one of the first Vermonters to enroll in “concierge medicine”. I, in fact, followed my primary care physician from her practice with UVM into her private practice because I had medical issues that I was concerned about and because I knew her from experience to be an amazing physician. I know that I am lucky to be able to do this, but it was not an easy decision, and it is not an inconsequential cost for me. However, it allows me to know firsthand what good health care can be and how critical it is, especially for those of us who are older and/or have medical issues. I believe that everyone should have access to the kind of medical care that they need, and that it should not be the result of financial sacrifice.

I am astonished to know that Vermont has the highest cost for medical care in the country. I also know that this cannot be explained by the age of our population or the size of our state. It was a political decision to allow matters to reach this condition, and it will be a political decision to save Vermont’s health care. It will require courage from our legislators and from our governor. Fixing health care in Vermont would have far reaching implications: education, housing, and general affordability. I implore you to consider single payer health care and to move swiftly in that direction.

Thank you for taking testimony on this important issue.

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