

Dear House Health Care Committee Members,

You have all worked so hard and thank you so much for holding the public hearing on access to primary care last week. It would be a shame to let this opportunity for advancing universal primary care in Vermont slip away in the last few days of the session.

Please add an amendment to S197 that would create a universal primary care advisory group that would work on a financing and operational plan for universal publicly financed primary care to be delivered to the legislature in January 2027. In working on their plan, such a group could utilize the cost estimates of current primary care spending in Vermont that the bill requires. This will also provide an opportunity to look more deeply into some of the technical issues such as Section 1332 waivers, etc.

Ethan Parke [proposed language for such an amendment](#) in your committee a few weeks ago, and it is up on your website under witnesses. I believe that this would not take much work for Leg Counsel Jenn Carbee to add.

Let's take concrete steps this session to make Universal Primary Care a reality.

Sincerely,
Ellen Oxfeld