

I'm writing while sitting in the waiting room at Express Care in Middlebury, facing a wait of over two hours to be seen. Experiences like this highlight how difficult it can be for too many Vermonters to access care before it reaches an urgent timeframe.

I believe improving access to primary care and building a more equitable healthcare system is critical. I respectfully ask the legislators to consider adding an amendment to S.197 to establish a Universal Primary Care Advisory Group. This group would be needed to develop a financing and operational plan for universal, publicly funded primary care, based on up to date cost estimates of primary care spending.

Vermonters need thoughtful, practical steps like this to move meaningful reform forward.

Thank you for your time.

Karen Cotrone
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