

May 5, 2026

To the House Health Care Committee,

The Vermont Steering Committee for Comprehensive Primary Health Care encourages you to pass S.197. The bill lays out a path to meaningfully strengthen primary care and addresses the priorities that the Steering Committee has identified: access to a broad scope of primary care for all patients regardless of complexity or insurance status. It has the advantage of being implementable in the short term, allowing us to begin now in achieving these goals.

We have heard that there has been a lot of discussion about Universal Primary Care in your committee lately. The Steering Committee has been clear that any new system should include primary care for everyone, and we look forward to hearing more about legislative plans as they develop. It's amazing and hopeful that this idea — which many have previously viewed as fringe — is gaining broader support, both in the legislature and in the public.

But our committee also feels strongly that reform of primary care payment cannot wait. Passing some version of S.197 will allow a prompt shift of resources into primary care which will increase access, quality and scope, improving the health of our population and ultimately leading to reduced costs.

Thank you for hearing our message of strong support for S.197.

The Vermont Steering Committee for Comprehensive Primary Health Care