

Dear House Health Care Committee:

Thank you for all of the thoughtful testimony you have taken and discussion you have had regarding how to support primary care practices in Vermont. We know that you are all deeply committed to supporting the primary care clinicians of the state and working to increase patient access to primary care.

Our organizations request that in addition to any examination of universal primary care, **S. 197 retain sections 2-5 of the bill, which can immediately strengthen primary care payments based on Vermont's existing Blueprint for Health payments**, including:

- Section 2 – requires all insurers to contribute equally to Blueprint for Health patient centered medical home (PCMH) per member per month payments, **leading to an immediate increase to PCMH payments**
- Section 2 – requires AHS to establish a target for the amount of per-person per-month spending that should be for primary care services, to develop a schedule to increase the investment over time, and to **direct these increases to the PCMH payments**
- Section 3 – requires a report from AHS by January 1, 2027 with input from primary care practitioners how to transition PCMH payments to include paying for routine primary care services

While many of our members strongly support the goal of universal primary care access, primary care practices cannot wait for a new system of insurance to be established. **They need a path to more sustainable payments now.**

Thank you for your consideration and please let us know if we can help further as you mark up the bill.

Sincerely,

Jessa Barnard
Vermont Medical Society

Mary Kate Mohlman
Bi-State Primary Care Association

Susan Ridzon
HealthFirst Independent Practice Association

Stephanie Winters
Vermont Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics-VT Chapter