

Dear Representative Black and Members of the House Committee on Health Care,

I am writing to follow up from a previous email sent to the House Committee as a Vermont-licensed naturopathic physician who provides primary care in southern Vermont and the current president of the Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians. I respectfully urge the Committee to restore important language in S.197 that was included in the Senate's earlier version but removed in the May 1 version.

Specifically, on page 4 of the current bill, the following clause was struck:

“...enhanced payment to health care professional practices that operate as a medical home, **including medical homes and primary care naturopathic physicians’ practices...**”

Restoring this language would:

- Explicitly recognize licensed naturopathic physicians who deliver primary care as eligible for the enhanced Blueprint per-member per-month payments.
- Help address Vermont's ongoing primary care workforce shortage, particularly in rural and underserved communities.
- Ensure the bill's goals of increasing access, reducing administrative burden, and meeting the 15% primary care spending target are achieved using **all** available qualified providers.
- Maintain consistency with Vermont's existing recognition of naturopathic physicians as primary care providers.

This is a small but meaningful amendment that does not change the overall structure or cost of the bill. The language was already accepted by the Senate in a prior draft — restoring it now would strengthen primary care access without controversy.

I would be happy to provide additional information, data on naturopathic primary care outcomes, or meet with the Committee. Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue and eagerly look forward to hearing back on this. I am available to meet this upcoming week should the need arise.

I have copied one of the sponsors of the bill, Senator Wendy Harrison, of my district, as well as Senator Lyons for their reference.

Yours in Health,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Moore', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steven Moore, President & Legislative Chair