



Date: February 21, 2025

To: Chair Alyssa Black and Representative Francis McFaun

From: HealthFirst, Susan Ridzon, Executive Director, [sr@vermonthealthfirst.org](mailto:sr@vermonthealthfirst.org)

Re: SFY 2026 Budget Request

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We are requesting funding in SFY 2026 to close a critical gap that will exist for primary care in 2026 when the All-Payer model ends. Almost all of our 26 independent primary care practices will be negatively affected by this change. As you know, primary care is an efficient, cost-effective service that is foundational to an affordable system that improves the health of Vermonters. We cannot let this funding gap further weaken Vermont's precarious primary care system.

In her testimony on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, VMS' Jessa Barnard explained the different program payments that will end, and the specific amounts requested in the SFY 2026 budget. Those details are outlined [here](#). We reiterate the request for these funds, and we ask for the Committee's help by prioritizing this need in the SFY 2026 budget.

Continuation of these funds is critical to sustain the current level of services offered by Vermont's primary care practices. Thank you for your attention to this important matter!