

Dear Senate Appropriations Committee Members:

As a retired Burlington physician (psychiatrist), member of the Vermont Medical Society, and citizen who is working on the topic of suicide prevention in Vermont, there are few better ways to protect the health and well-being of Vermonters than to support programs which support, and help to retain and recruit, our over-worked and stretched-too-thin primary care physicians.

Please vote in favor of these specific programs:

- \$4.4m GF/\$10.8m GC for the **Blueprint for Health** Community Health Team CHT, Primary Care Medical Home (PCMH) and SASH program (in Governor's and House budget);
- \$4.6m GF for the OneCare Vermont **Population Health Management** (PHM) Program for all participating primary care practices (House budget includes \$3.12m);
- \$835K GF for the **Comprehensive Payment Reform** (CPR) for independent primary care practices (full amount in House budget);
- \$1.385 million to continue the **Blueprint for Health Pilot Expansion Program** that invests Medicaid dollars in expanded Community Health Team staff at primary care practices to address mental health, substance use disorder and SDOH needs (not funded in House budget);
- \$515,000 for the **Maple Mountain Consortium family medicine residency** program - a new primary care pipeline that will train 4 family medicine trainees per year starting in July 2026 (not funded in House budget);
- \$500,000 for the **Medical Student Incentive Scholarship Program** that provides scholarships for up to 10 third- and fourth-year UVM medical students who commit to practicing primary care outside of Chittenden County. To date 22 scholarships have been awarded (not funded in House budget).

With regards and appreciation,
Debra Lopez Gottesman, MD
Burlington