



Date: April 12, 2025

To: Chair Virginia Lyons and members of Senate Health and Welfare Committee

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

Re: SFY 2026 Budget Request for Primary Care Funding

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HealthFirst requests that the Committee prioritize funding for primary care in SFY 2026. In short, we fully support and ask for the same funds outlined by Vermont Medical Society's Jessa Barnard in testimony on April 11, 2025, and detailed [here](#).

Part of the funding request is to close a gap that will occur when the All-Payer model ends. Almost all of our 26 independent primary care practices will be negatively affected by this change. We cannot let this further weaken Vermont's precarious primary care system. Your support of funding will ensure primary care practices can sustain the current level of services they offer to Vermonters.

In addition, there is critical funding needed to support primary care training and scholarship programs that will help to address Vermont's primary care shortage. There's also support needed to continue Blueprint for Health programs that help to integrate physical and mental health, substance use care, and social services within primary care and subspecialty settings. These are great programs that continue to strengthen Vermont's integrated primary care-focused system – the most cost-effective way to achieve optimal population health.

We sincerely thank Committee members for your attention to this important matter! As you know, primary care is an efficient, cost-effective service that is foundational to an affordable system that improves the health of Vermonters. These funds are critical to our health care system.