



Speaking with candidates about Universal Primary Care

As candidates campaign in the upcoming general election season, you will surely want to speak with them about **Universal Primary Care (UPC)**. Real, effective healthcare reform in Vermont has widespread support as illustrated by the items linked below.

We know you are likely pressed for time, so here is our condensed explanation.

Nuts & Bolts of UPC

- Every constituent needs primary care- whether sick, healthy, rich or poor. It is most of the care for most of the people, most of the time.
- Health promotion and disease prevention save our healthcare system huge costs and prevent disability and suffering. Universal primary care will improve the health of the entire population (this is backed up by hundreds of studies).
- Primary care is cheap- including mental health and substance use disorder services- it is less than 6% of total spending.

UPC is Simple to Implement

- Everyone gets a UPC card which entitles them to free primary care.
- We pay for it through a small tax in place of an insurance premium, put it in one fund and pay for primary care directly.
- We could then add other sectors of care year by year, remove that from private insurance to eventually include all care.
- Vermonters already have a legal right to health care through Act 48.

Advantages of UPC:

- People would no longer need health insurance for primary care.
- Premiums for other types of care would be reduced accordingly.
- It is inexpensive.
- It will improve the health of the entire population (this is backed up by hundreds of studies).

You are likely to hear a variety of objections claiming that UPC is not feasible. Here are answers to the most [common objections and misinformation about UPC](#).

There are many other sources that go into greater detail including:

1. This is [a short handout on the general issues currently in Vermont's health care system](#) (prior to the Trump cuts, but still pretty much summarizes the difficulties which of course will be worse now).
2. This is a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about Universal Primary Care.
3. This links to [testimony of Dr. Jack Mayer, Dr. Allan Ramsay and Dr. Rhys Niedecker](#) before the House Health Care Committee this spring on Universal Primary Care. It's the first hour of testimony.
4. This is a link to the [public hearing before House Health Care Committee](#) held this spring.
5. This is a short news item on the many [organizations in Vermont that have now endorsed publicly financed universal health care](#).

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Vermont Health Care for All at: vthc4all@gmail.com