In support of universal, publicly financed health care in Vermont

Open letter to the Vermont Governor and Legislature from Economists in the U.S.

As economists, we understand that universal, publicly financed health care is not only economically feasible but highly preferable to a fragmented market-based insurance system. Health care is not a service that follows standard market rules; it should be provided as a public good. Evidence from around the world demonstrates that publicly financed health care systems result in improved health outcomes, lower costs and greater equity.

Public financing is not a matter of raising new money, but of distributing existing payments more equitably and efficiently. Especially when combined with provider payment reforms, public financing can lower administrative costs, share health care costs much more equitably, and ensure access to comprehensive care for all.

We support publicly and equitably financed health care at federal and state level, and we encourage the government of the state of Vermont to move forward with implementing a public financing plan for the universal health care system envisioned by state law.

Signed,

1. Randy Albelda  
   Professor of Economics  
   University of Massachusetts, Boston
2. Michael Ash  
   Professor of Economics and Public Policy  
   University of Massachusetts Amherst
3. Ron Baiman  
   Assistant Professor, Graduate Business Administration  
   Benedictine University
4. Dean Baker  
   Co-Director  
   Center for Economic and Policy Research
5. Radhika Balakrishnan  
   Professor  
   Rutgers University
6. Nina Banks  
   Associate Professor of Economics  
   Bucknell University
7. Peter H. Bent  
   Researcher, Dept of Economics  
   University of Massachusetts and Oxford University
8. Cyrus Bina  
   Distinguished Research Professor of Economics  
   University of Minnesota
9. Howard Botwinick  
   Professor of Economics  
   SUNY Cortland
10. Roger Even Bove  
    Department of Economics and Finance  
    West Chester University
11. James K. Boyce  
    Department of Economics & Political Economy  
    Research Institute  
    University of Massachusetts Amherst
12. Michael Brun  
    Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics  
    Illinois State University
13. Antonio Callari  
    Sigmund M. and Mary B. Hyman Professor, Economics  
    Franklin and Marshall College
14. Jim Campen  
    Emeritus  
    University of Massachusetts, Boston
15. John Dennis Chasse  
    Professor Emeritus  
    SUNY Brockport
16. Robert Chernomas  
    Professor of Economics  
    University of Manitoba
17. Kimberly Christensen  
   Professor of Economics  
   Sarah Lawrence College

18. Charles M. A. Clark  
   Professor of Economics  
   St. John’s University

19. Richard Cornwall  
   Professor of Economics (retired)  
   Middlebury College

20. Victor D. Lippit  
   Professor Emeritus of Economics  
   University of California, Riverside

   Duke University

22. Firt Demir  
   Associate Professor, Department of Economics  
   University of Oklahoma

23. Geert Dhondt  
   Assistant Professor, Dept of Economics, John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
   The City University of New York

24. Mathieu Dufour  
   Assistant Professor, Department of Economics  
   John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York

25. Marie Duggan  
   Professor and Coordinator of Economics  
   Keene State College

26. Amitava Krishna Dutt  
   Professor of Economics and Political Science  
   University of Notre Dame

27. Nina Eichacker  
   Bentley University

28. David Eisnitz  
   Economist  
   Earlham College and University of Massachusetts at Amherst

29. Joshua Farley  
   Professor, Community Development and Applied Economics  
   University of Vermont

30. Kade Finnoff  
   Assistant Professor, Dept of Economics  
   University of Massachusetts, Boston

31. Sean Flaherty  
   Professor of Economics  
   Franklin and Marshall College

32. Mathew Forstater  
   Professor of Economics  
   University of Missouri - Kansas City

33. Gerald Friedman  
   Professor of Economics and Chair of  
   Department of Economics  
   University of Massachusetts Amherst

34. James Galbraith  
   Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr. Chair in  
   Government/Business Relations and Professor of Government  
   University of Texas at Austin

35. Barbara Garson  
   Author, "Down the Up Escalator: How the 99% Live"

36. Armagan Gezici  
   Associate Professor of Economics  
   Keene State College

37. Helen Lachs Ginsburg  
   Professor Emerita of Economics  
   Brooklyn College, City University of New York

38. Christopher Gunn  
   Professor of Economics  
   Hobart and William Smith Colleges

39. Robin Hahnel  
   Professor Emeritus  
   American University

40. Darrick Hamilton  
   Associate Professor of Economics and Urban Policy  
   New School University

41. F. Gregory Hayden  
   Professor of Economics  
   University of Nebraska - Lincoln

42. John F. Henry  
   Professor of Economics  
   University of Missouri - Kansas City

43. Susan Himmelweit  
   Emeritus Professor of Economics  
   Open University

44. Eric Hoyt  
   University of Massachusetts Amherst

45. Joseph Hunt  
   Senior Research Scientist, Center for Health and the Global Environment  
   Harvard School of Public Health

46. Russell Janis  
   Senior Lecturer II in Economics  
   University of Massachusetts Amherst

47. Jerome Joffe  
   Associate Professor, Health Care Administration (retired)  
   St. John's University
48. Mark Johnson
   Economics Professor (retired)
   Chicago State University

49. Marlene Kim
   Professor of Economics
   University of Massachusetts, Boston

50. Mary C. King
    Professor Emerita, Economics
    Portland State University

51. Charalampos Konstantinidis
    Assistant Professor, Department of Economics
    University of Massachusetts, Boston

52. Brent Kramer
    Adjunct Assistant Professor of Economics
    John Jay College, City University of New York

53. David Laibman
    Professor Emeritus, Economics
    Brooklyn College and Graduate School, City University of New York

54. Thomas Lambert
    Assistant Professor of Public Administration
    Northern Kentucky University

55. Mehrene Larudee
    Presidential Scholar, Fulbright Scholar
    University of Massachusetts Amherst

56. Daniel MacDonald
    Assistant Professor, Department of Economics
    California State University San Bernadino

57. Arthur MacEwan
    Professor Emeritus of Economics
    University of Massachusetts, Boston

58. Patrick Mason
    Professor, Department of Economics
    Florida State University

59. Thomas Masterson
    Research Scholar and Director of Applied Micromodeling
    Levy Economics Institute of Bard College

60. Scott McConnell
    Assistant Professor of Economics
    Eastern Oregon University

61. Elaine McCrate
    Associate Professor of Economic and Women’s and Gender Studies
    University of Vermont

62. Terrence McDonough
    Professor of Economics
    National University of Ireland Galway

63. Martin Melkonian
    Adjunct Associate Professor, Economics
    Hofstra University

64. Peter B. Meyer
    Professor Emeritus of Urban Policy and Economics
    University of Louisville

65. John Miller
    Professor of Economics
    Wheaton College

66. Lanse Minkler
    Associate Professor, Department of Economics
    University of Connecticut

67. Katherine Moos
    Visiting Faculty, Health Advocacy Program
    Sarah Lawrence College

68. Fred Moseley
    Professor of Economics
    Mount Holyoke College

69. Tracy Mott
    Associate Professor & Chair, Department of Economics
    University of Denver

70. Kamran Nayeri
    Emeritus, Political Economy, Survey Research Center
    UC Berkeley

71. Edward Nell
    Professor of Economics
    New School for Social Research

72. Julie A. Nelson
    Chair, Department of Economics
    University of Massachusetts, Boston

73. Eric Nilsson
    Professor, Economics Department
    California State University San Bernadino

74. Mark Paul
    University of Massachusetts Amherst

75. Roberto Pedace
    Associate Professor of Economics
    Scripps College

76. Chiara Piovani
    Assistant Professor, Department of Economics
    University of Denver

77. Robert Pollin
    Distinguished Professor of Economics
    University of Massachusetts Amherst

78. Steven Pressman
    Professor of Economics
    Monmouth University

79. Paddy Quick
    Professor of Economics; Chair, Dept. of ECO/HIS/PSC/SS
    St. Francis College, Brooklyn
80. Dean E. Robinson  
    Associate Professor, Department of Political Science  
    University of Massachusetts Amherst

81. Leonard Rodberg  
    Professor and Chair, Department of Urban Studies  
    Queens College/CUNY

82. Nancy Rose  
    Professor Emeritus  
    California State University, San Bernadino

83. David F. Ruccio  
    Professor of Economics  
    University of Notre Dame

84. Helen Scharber  
    Assistant Professor of Economics  
    Hampshire College

85. Stephanie Seguino  
    Professor of Economics  
    University of Vermont

86. Anwar Shaikh  
    Professor of Economics and Chair, Department of Economics  
    New School for Social Research

87. Peter Skott  
    Professor of Economics  
    University of Massachusetts Amherst

88. Janet Spitz  
    Associate Professor of Business Administration  
    College of Saint Rose

89. John Summa  
    Lecturer of Economics  
    University of Vermont

90. José A. Tapia  
    Associate Professor  
    Drexel University

91. Linwood Tauheed  
    Associate Professor of Economics  
    University of Missouri - Kansas City

92. Daniele Tavani  
    Assistant Professor, Department of Economics  
    Colorado State University

93. Frank Thompson  
    Lecturer & Research Investigator, Department of Economics  
    University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

94. Chris Tilly  
    Professor & Director of Institute for Research on Labor and Employment  
    University of California, Los Angeles

95. Mariano Torras  
    Professor of Economics and Chair, Department of Finance and Economics  
    Adelphi University

96. Valerie Voorheis  
    Graduate School MBA for Sustainability  
    Marlboro College, Brattleboro, VT

97. John Watkins  
    Professor of Economics  
    Westminster College

98. John Weeks  
    Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of London  
    Former Professor, Middlebury College

99. Scott Weir  
    Instructor of Business Administration  
    Wake Technical College

100. Thomas E. Weisskopf  
    Professor Emeritus of Economics  
    University of Michigan

101. Cecilia Winter  
    Economics Professor (Emerita)  
    Manhattanville College

102. Richard D. Wolff  
    New School University

103. Edward Wolff  
    Professor of Economics  
    New York University

104. Yavuz Yasar  
    Associate Professor, Economics  
    University of Denver

105. Tai Young-Taft  
    Assistant Professor of Economics  
    Simon’s Rock College

106. June Zaccone  
    Economics (Emerita)  
    Hofstra University