

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 10, 2023

Dr. Sunil Eappen
Chief Executive Officer
University of Vermont Health Network
462 Shelburne Road
Burlington, VT 05401

Sir Andrew Witty
Chief Executive Officer
UnitedHealth Group
9900 Bren Road East
Minneapolis, MN 55343

Dear Dr. Eappen and Sir Witty,

We urge United Healthcare (UHC) and the University of Vermont Health Network (UVMHN) to quickly come to an agreement to renew your contract before it expires on April 1, 2023. If an agreement cannot be reached, we insist, at a minimum, that UVMHN providers be covered in-network for the remainder of the plan year.

Without your action, thousands of Vermonters could lose access to their preferred providers, including pediatricians, neurologists, and other specialists that are otherwise unavailable in the large parts of the state served by UVMHN. Further, the UVMHN runs the state's only tertiary care and level-I trauma center, the only neonatal intensive care unit, and the only pediatric intensive care unit.

Vermonters are depending on both of your organizations to stay at the negotiating table. We are confident that both of your organizations can come to a satisfactory agreement.

Most Vermonters who elected UHC for a plan year beginning in January 2023 work for large employers where UHC is the only insurance offered that has in-network coverage of UVMHN providers. They elected their UHC plan with the understanding that UVMHN would be a part of United's provider network. A mid-plan year change to exclude UVMHN providers drastically devalues this insurance coverage. Yet these Vermonters will have no option to elect an alternative plan with better coverage should UHC and the UVMHN fail to reach an agreement, and they may be forced to travel out of state for affordable care.

Vermonters should not have to bear the burden of a failure to come to an agreement. We urge both parties to put your shared patients and enrollees first and come to an agreement as soon as possible. We hope and expect this matter will be resolved prior to the termination of the contract on April 1, 2023.

Sincerely,



BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator



PETER WELCH
United States Senator



BECCA BALINT
Member of Congress