

Submitted on Fri, 10/22/2021 - 15:03

Name

Ryan Stevenson

Town/City

Barre Town

Topic

Other

Comment

I'm writing in response to the Health Care Workforce. Access to healthcare is very important and necessary but the pandemic has put a spotlight on the our states gaps. We need more health care workers across the board. It's currently, and was before the pandemic, challenging to find a mental health therapist, primary care doctor, dentist without being put on a 3-6 month wait list. In my opinion expanding our states health care workforce is going to require a multi tiered approach. First, I think we should be incentivizing people to join the work force; whether it's education or immediate job placement. In addition, we should be recruiting out of state health care professionals to move here through an incentive based program similar to the remote worker program but with more money attached. However, where are they going to live with little to no housing available to buy or rent. Expanding the health care workforce is great but there also needs to be places for these workers to live and places they can afford. Thus, I would recommend proposing to the legislature incentive based programs, building more housing (whether mixed use or single family), amending Act 250, and easing the permitting and building process.