

Dear Legislators and Advocates,

My name is Arvind Shaw, CEO for Generations Family Health Center, a rural FQHC that serves Putnam, Danielson, Norwich and the Willimantic community. The workforce scarcity issues need urgent attention and resources and I am writing in favor of this proposal so that the needs of patients can be met and this program restored so that these services remain in the community.

**The Data:** The following Data comes from My County Health rankings a publication of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and is a comparison from 2011, (the last year this program was funded by the state) and 2020 (the most recent data). As the data shows the healthcare workforce shortage has caused the healthcare pie to shrink and outcomes have deteriorated and caused costs to rise for patients.

|             |                 | <b>Ratio of population to primary care physicians</b> |                 |                    |
|-------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|--------------------|
|             |                 | <b>Windham</b>  | <b>National</b> | <b>Connecticut</b> |
| <b>2012</b> | <b>Patients</b> | 1,777   | 933             | 815                |
| <b>2021</b> | <b>Patients</b> | 2200  | 1330            | 1200               |
|             |                 | 81%   | 70%             | 68%                |

This table depicts how much the workforce has actually declined since 2012 by aging and migration

In the last 10 years Rural Windham County has lost ground and is only 81% of where it used to be in 2012. Restoration of this program would strengthen the safety net and provide better access to patients who live in our communities.

We urge the healthcare leaders, regulators and legislators to recognize these distinctions and to restore this community solution so that professionals who seek to serve our communities have their Student Loan Repayments offset by service to the community.

Thank You,  
Arvind Shaw



*Arvind Shaw*

*Chief Executive Officer*

*40 Mansfield Avenue*

*Willimantic, Connecticut 06226*

*Telephone: 860-456-6200*

**Fax: 860-450-7475**

**Web site: [www.genhealth.org](http://www.genhealth.org)**

**Email: [Ashaw@genhealth.org](mailto:Ashaw@genhealth.org)**