



March 4, 2021

H.B. 6439 State Loan Repayment

Dear Legislators and Advocates,

My name is Arvind Shaw, CEO for Generations Family Health Center, a rural FQHC that serves the Putnam, Danielson, Norwich and Willimantic communities. The workforce scarcity issues need urgent attention and resources, and I am writing in favor of H.B.6439 so that the needs of patients can be met and this program restored for services to remain in the communities.

Since 2011 there have been more than 200 primary care positions on the safety net for medical, dental and behavioral health providers that have been lost. When you add the five supportive staff that are needed for each Full-Time Equivalent there are 1,000 jobs that could have preserved patient access and equity annually. This bill creates good jobs in our communities.

The Data: The following data comes from My County Health rankings, a publication of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and is a comparison from 2012 (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 for healthcare to rise for patients.

Ratio of population to primary care physicians				
		Windham	National	Connecticut
2012	Patients	1,777	933	815
2021	Patients	2200	1330	1200
	Decline	81%	70%	68%

This table depicts how much the workforce has actually declined since 2012.

In the last 10 years rural Windham County has lost ground and is only 81% of where it used to be in 2012 and is far below the rest of the state in most per capita measurements. Restoration of this program would strengthen the safety net and provide better access to quality services for patients who live in all of our communities, rural and urban.

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
CEO