

## Roxanne Maher

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**From:** Drue Chappelle <patellakinesis@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 11, 2025 7:43 PM  
**To:** Town Council Group  
**Subject:** Letter in favor of the Primary Care for All proposal

Dear Members of Ledyard Town Council,

While I could not attend the last town council meeting, I did have the opportunity to watch online including Dr. Fine's presentation on Primary Care for all. As a member of this community, I would highly encourage you to approve measures to ensure that all Ledyard residents not only have access to primary care but are actively utilizing it.

First a little about me: I have spent 15 years working in prehospital care as a paramedic working with American Ambulance (now Hartford Healthcare), following that I spend 3 more years working in the emergency departments of Backus Hospital and Plainfield Emergency Care Center including during the height of the covid pandemic. For the last 6 years, I have been the primary care giver for both of my elderly in-laws (76 female, 80 male), both of whom have numerous comorbidities which make the management of their healthcare, as well as their quality of life, difficult.

I cannot express the impact of primary health care on the overall well-being of patients. Conservatively, I would estimate nearly three quarters of all EMS calls could either be handled effectively by a primary care provider OR would have been prevented by preventative medicine through primary care. The CDC determined that approximately 60% of emergency room visits were for patients with at least one chronic condition. The number of patients I have seen with COPD or CHF (both chronic respiratory diseases) patients who have been brought in for worsening shortness of breath due to poor management of their condition alone is an enormous tax on the system. And it's an expensive one: nebulizer treatments, chest x-rays, steroids, CPAP or BiPAP, and/or intubation and lengthy critical care unit in-patient stays. All of this is preventable with effective management of these conditions and that begins with primary care. And before you write this off as a single example that doesn't apply to the majority of our town; consider diabetes, epilepsy and other neurological disorders, fall prevention, or the magnitude of seasonal flu. All of these are mitigated or outright managed by primary care and they are done so without huge emergency room costs, expensive interventions, costly ambulance bills, and lengthy hospital stays.

In Ledyard, we pay for the healthcare costs for our town employees and sub-contract our emergency medical services with Hartford Healthcare. With a program such as Primary Care for all, we can maintain a healthier community and potentially reduce the costs of two large portions of our town's budget. I strongly urge you to implement such a program. With my own experience, I would even be willing to volunteer my own time to coordinate efforts to achieve such a goal.

Drue Chappelle

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