



*Shaun Chen*

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March 1, 2018

Hon. Ginette Petitpas-Taylor  
Minister of Health  
Suite 356, Confederation Building  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

Dear Minister *Ginette,* Petitpas-Taylor,

**Re: Health-Care Privatization and For-Profit Health Clinics**

I am writing to you today regarding the issue of privatization and for-profit health-care services across Canada. As a strong supporter of universal health care, I believe this is an issue of national importance.

During my recent meeting with the Canadian Health Coalition (CHC), I was informed of the increasing prevalence of private health clinics in Canada. These include boutique clinics in Canadian urban centres that offer unnecessary treatments and services that are costly and often a detriment to patient health.

I was also informed that there are clinics around Canada that are illegally billing or misleading patients by telling them they must pay for services that are in fact publicly covered. The Ontario Health Coalition stated in a 2017 report that 88 of these clinics are operating across Canada.

Specifically, the CHC mentioned new for-profit diagnostic imaging centres that have opened in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. These centres offer fewer images than new publically-funded MRIs yet have been hailed as an innovation in health care services.

In addition, the CHC brought forward concerns regarding the opening of for-profit plasma clinics. These clinics usually open in lower-income neighbourhoods and pay people to donate blood so they can sell the plasma on the international market. These predatory clinics have been banned in some provinces, including Ontario, but not all.

While the provision of health care services is under provincial and territorial jurisdiction, the federal government is responsible for monitoring and enforcing the Canada Health Act.

Under the act, all provinces and territories must provide medically necessary health care services that are publicly administered, accessible, and delivered without user fees or extra-billing.

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,



Shaun Chen  
Member of Parliament  
Scarborough North

c.c.: Herb John, Representative, Canadian Health Coalition  
Stuart Ryan, Representative, Canadian Health Coalition  
James Hutt, National Director Policy and Advocacy, Canadian Health Coalition  
Amélie Baillargeon, National Director Operations and Projects, Canadian Health Coalition