

# Healthcare Is a Human Right Campaign

December 2014

## Health Workers and Green Mountain Care

### Why Universal Healthcare is Good for Doctors, Nurses, and other Health Practitioners

Vermont is on the verge of a breakthrough for universal, publicly financed healthcare.

**Health workers and patients are standing together** for Green Mountain Care, a healthcare system where every health practitioner is adequately paid and supported, and every person gets the care they need and contributes through equitable taxes.

#### Strong Patient-Practitioner Relationships

*Act 48: The health care system must recognize the primacy of the relationship between patients and their health care practitioners, respecting the professional judgment of health care practitioners and the informed decisions of patients. (18 V.S.A. § 9371)*

Green Mountain Care must:

- Ensure that all care decisions are made by health practitioners together with their patients, based on medical information and patient choice, without meddling from insurance companies.
- Prioritize the patient-practitioner relationship in the healthcare system and protect it from interference by middlemen and gatekeepers.

#### Patient-Centered Care

*Act 48: All Vermonters must receive affordable and appropriate health care at the appropriate time in the appropriate setting. (18 V.S.A. § 9371)*

Green Mountain Care must:

- Make the patient, not the payer, the focus of the health service.
- Ensure that each patient has access to the same high-quality standard of care.
- Meet patient needs by providing appropriate care in respectful ways that are responsive to the patient's values.
- Give patients the freedom to choose among health providers without restriction to narrow insurance networks.

#### Better Working Conditions

*Act 48: GMC must enable health care professionals to provide, on a solvent basis, effective and efficient health services that are in the public interest. (18 V.S.A. § 9371)*

Green Mountain Care must:

- Ensure that health practitioners spend much less time and money dealing with red tape, such as multiple insurer billing and documentation rules.
- Maximize the time health practitioners are able to spend with their patients.
- Reform malpractice law to reduce the practice of defensive medicine and fear of lawsuits.
- Ensure that health practitioners can prioritize health outcomes over concerns about compensation and reimbursement.

### **Adequate Compensation for All Health Workers**

*Act 48: Health care professionals will be reimbursed at levels sufficient to allow Vermont to recruit and retain high-quality health care professionals. (33 V.S.A. § 1822)*

Green Mountain Care must:

- Guarantee that all health practitioners, whether employed or independent, receive adequate compensation.
- Ensure that rural and primary care practitioners receive equitable payment.
- Ensure that payment reform is transparent, participatory, and focused on improving the quality and outcomes of care.

### **Focus on Primary Care**

*Act 48: Primary care must be preserved and enhanced so that Vermonters have care available to them, preferably within their own communities. (18 V.S.A. § 9371)*

*Healthcare infrastructure [...] must be supported in such a way that all Vermonters, including those in rural areas, have access to necessary health services and that these health services are sustainable. 18 V.S.A. § 9371*

Green Mountain Care must:

- Provide more support for primary care practitioners.
- Ensure that everyone has a regular primary care practitioner to enable continuity of care.
- Develop a better, more sustainable rural healthcare infrastructure.

**Join the Healthcare Is a Human Right Campaign**  
**ALL PEOPLE - ALL CARE**

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