

1 VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION

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3 Reaffirming VMS principles of health reform &  
4 statement of need for universal coverage

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6 *As adopted at the VMS Annual Meeting on November 7, 2020*

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9 **RESOLVED** that the Vermont Medical Society reaffirms its support as stated in  
10 1992, 2003 and 2005 for universal access to comprehensive, affordable, high-  
11 quality health care centered on an increased investment in primary care, reduced  
12 administrative burden and public health interventions that address the social  
13 determinants of health and be it further

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15 **RESOLVED** that the Vermont Medical Society recommends that any national,  
16 universal health coverage system, including a single-payer health program or a  
17 government-sponsored public option, be designed to satisfy the following  
18 principles and will determine its support for a national universal health coverage  
19 system based on meeting these criteria:

- 20 a) Must provide equitable access to essential benefits and emphasize evidence-  
21 based, high value care for all;  
22 b) Cost sharing must not undermine access to evidence-based, high-value and  
23 essential care, particularly for low-income patients and patients with certain  
24 defined chronic diseases and catastrophic illnesses. Critical healthcare needs  
25 must be covered without causing financial insolvency;  
26 c) Medical payments and reimbursement for care must be sufficient to ensure  
27 access to necessary care, especially primary care, and must expand beyond  
28 current Medicare rates;  
29 d) Must include an automatic and mandatory enrollment mechanism and provide  
30 relief from burdensome administrative and regulatory requirements;  
31 e) Payments and charges must be transparent and predictable in order to make it  
32 easier for patients to navigate and receive necessary care;  
33 f) Health information technologies must enhance the patient-physician  
34 relationship, facilitate communication across the care continuum, and support  
35 improvements in patient care;  
36 g) A robust public health system must be prioritized and adequately funded.

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38 **RESOLVED** that the Vermont Medical Society continues to support state-based  
39 health reforms in Vermont that meet the criteria VMS established for state-based  
40 health reform in 2003 and 2005, including participation in the All-Payer Model;  
41 and be it further

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43 **RESOLVED** that the VMS also supports continued improvements in the current  
44 pluralistic system, including the ACA and the current employer-based system,  
45 even as the United States transitions to new approaches to achieve universal  
46 coverage.