VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY

RESOLUTION

Reconvening the Vermont Medical Society Physician Policy Council

Adopted October 29, 2011

WHEREAS, Act 48, in section 18 V.S. A. § 9376 charges the Green Mountain Care Board with setting reasonable rates for health care professionals and provider bargaining groups established consistent with the existing Vermont health care provider bargaining group law, 18 V.S.A. §9409; and

WHEREAS, consistent with 18 V.S.A. §9409, the Physician Policy Council (PPC) was originally established by the Vermont Medical Society (VMS) as a bargaining group comprised of medical specialties designated by the Council, authorized to negotiate with state government concerning "provider regulation, provider reimbursement, or quality of health care;" and

WHEREAS, the Vermont State Medical Society's physician bargaining group, the Physician Policy Council (PPC) was certified by the Health Care Authority as a provider bargaining group in 1994 and that certification was renewed in 2000 by the Division of Health Care Administration; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Vermont Medical Society (VMS) will reconvene the Physician Policy Council (PPC) and renew its status as a physician bargaining group approved by the state of Vermont; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the VMS Physician Policy Council will identify common physician purposes and concerns and will create a process to effectively engage in negotiation with the State of Vermont, and others as authorized by law with respect to physician payment rates and payment methodologies, provider regulation and quality of health care; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the VMS will recommend amendments to the Health Care provider bargaining group law, 18 V.S. A. §9409, to ensure that bargaining groups have full authority to negotiate with the Secretary of Administration, the Green Mountain Care board, and other branches of state government; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Physician Policy Council, as requested by the VMS Council, will address other issues of concern to physicians and their patients, such as workforce shortages, administrative simplification, educational debt, and liability reform and will report its findings and make recommendations to the VMS Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the VMS will actively and energetically publicize to its membership the fact that Green Mountain Care includes a key provision establishing bilateral negotiation of physician reimbursement rates.