VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION

Compliance with Act 48 Triggers for Publically-Financing Health Care

Adopted October 25, 2014

Whereas, Governor Shumlin’s Health Care Reform Bill was signed into law May 26, 2011 as Act 48; and

Whereas, under Act 48, a five person Green Mountain Care Board was established to oversee cost containment strategies and the Vermont Health Connect was created to help achieve universal insurance coverage, anticipating the evolution of Health Connect into Green Mountain Care: the state’s publicly-financed health care system for all Vermonters; and

Whereas, Governor Shumlin has announced that his proposal for publically-financing Green Mountain Care will be presented to the Vermont General Assembly by January 15th of 2015; and

Whereas, under 33 V.S.A. § 1822, Green Mountain Care shall be implemented 90 days following the last to occur of:

1. Receipt of a waiver under Section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act,
2. Enactment of a law establishing the financing for Green Mountain Care,
3. Approval by the Green Mountain Care Board of the initial Green Mountain Care benefit package,
4. Enactment of the appropriations for the initial Green Mountain Care benefit package,
5. A determination by the Green Mountain Care Board, as the result of a detailed and transparent analysis, that each of the following conditions or triggers will be met:
   A. Each Vermont resident covered by Green Mountain Care will receive benefits with an actuarial value of 80 percent or greater.
   B. When implemented, Green Mountain Care will not have a negative aggregate impact on Vermont’s economy. This determination shall include an analysis of the impact of implementation on economic growth.
   C. The financing for Green Mountain Care is sustainable.
   D. Administrative expenses in Vermont’s health care system for which data are available will be reduced below 2011 levels.
   E. Cost-containment efforts will result in a reduction in the rate of growth in Vermont’s per-capita health care spending without reducing access to necessary care or resulting in excessive wait times for services.
   F. Health care professionals will be reimbursed at levels sufficient to allow Vermont to recruit and retain high-quality health care professionals.

Whereas, Governor Shumlin’s administration has contracted with MIT health economist Jonathan Gruber to assist the State in analyzing the triggers set forth in Act 48 that, when implemented, Green Mountain Care will not have a negative aggregate impact on Vermont’s economy and the financing for Green Mountain care will be sustainable; and

Whereas, Gruber is required to provide proper documentation of his data sources, assumptions and methodology relating to his analysis of the financing of Green Mountain Care; and

Whereas, The VMS is one of eight organizations belonging to Vermont Partners for Health Care Reform and its purpose is to provide essential information based on factual data and research-based analyses to shape the smart and effective reform of Vermont’s health care system; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, The Vermont Medical Society will analyze the Administration’s proposal and assumptions for publically-financing Green Mountain Care and it will develop findings regarding the relevant Act 48 conditions or triggers; and be it further
RESOLVED, The Vermont Medical Society will actively seek the involvement and support of other independent organizations in developing and disseminating its findings, in order to shape the smart and effective reform of Vermont’s health care system