

Green Mountain Care will provide health insurance for all Vermonters in 2017. The State of Vermont is currently researching plans to pay for Green Mountain Care, and the legislature will consider these in 2015. The public should be able to weigh in over the next year.

While this new system is being developed, opponents of health care reform have been spreading myths about single payer.

Here's **THE STRAIGHT SCOOP**:

**MYTH: "Single payer will cost us more!"**

**THE STRAIGHT SCOOP:** The taxes for Green Mountain Care (Vermont Single Payer) will REPLACE private health insurance premiums. The Shumlin administration projects we will need to raise between \$1.6 to \$2.1 billion for a tax package to fund single payer. However, what is important is that it is a lot LESS than we are paying now. (In 2012, Vermonters spent a total of \$2.6 billion on private premiums and out of pocket health care expenses).

**MYTH: "Doctors will leave the state!"**

**THE STRAIGHT SCOOP:** Doctors say they will move to Vermont for a single-payer system. The list of doctors is growing.

**MYTH: "Our healthcare coverage will get worse!"**

**THE STRAIGHT SCOOP:** Under Green Mountain Care (Vermont Single Payer) benefits will apply equally to every Vermonter. State law requires the benefit package of Green Mountain Care at a minimum to include primary and specialty care, mental health and substance abuse, hospitals and prescription drugs. Under Green Mountain Care everyone will be eligible for these broad benefits.



**MYTH: "There will be delays to see our doctor."**

**THE STRAIGHT SCOOP:** We experience delays now for many reasons: patients put off treatment because of high costs, insurance companies create roadblocks, and sometimes the resources just aren't there. The efficiency of a single payer system will ensure that the money we have is spent on the care we need, and not on insurance company middlemen.

**MYTH: "We won't have free choice of doctor or hospital."**

**THE STRAIGHT SCOOP:** Green Mountain Care (Vermont Single Payer) will provide free choice of doctor and hospital, unlike now when private insurers limit choice to suit themselves.

**MYTH: "Government bureaucrats will stand between us and our doctors, preventing us from getting necessary care."**

**THE STRAIGHT SCOOP:** Green Mountain Care (Vermont Single Payer) will remove insurance company bureaucrats now standing between us and our doctor. It is rare for enrollees in Vermont's existing public health care programs like Dr. Dynasaur to be denied services. We expect this to be the case under Green Mountain Care as well.

**MYTH: "Medicare will change."**

**THE STRAIGHT SCOOP:** Basic Medicare will stay the same. Green Mountain Care (Vermont Single Payer) will add more benefits to Medicare.

**MYTH: "More private insurance companies mean lower costs."**

**THE STRAIGHT SCOOP:** There is no evidence for this claim. More insurance competition does not result in lower health care costs for everyone.

**MYTH: "Under Single Payer care will be rationed!"**

**THE STRAIGHT SCOOP:** Green Mountain Care (Vermont Single Payer) will not be set up to ration care. It will use existing dollars more efficiently to ensure that every Vermonter gets necessary health care.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT VERMONT HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AT:

[www.vermontforsinglepayer.org](http://www.vermontforsinglepayer.org)

Notes to this leaflet: [www.vermontforsinglepayer.org/notesonstraightscooplitpiece?mode=preview&t=pages](http://www.vermontforsinglepayer.org/notesonstraightscooplitpiece?mode=preview&t=pages)

"I needed two life saving shots which were only available at the hospital and not at any local pharmacy. My insurance company told me I had to pay the entire cost, which ran well over \$1,000, because it was printed as a hospital bill and was not from a pharmacy where it would have cost me only \$100. After a year of arguing with the insurance company, they decided it needed to go "to trial" with a "jury" of doctors and nurses hired by them to make a decision. This "jury" ruled against me and I had to pay the entire bill. That's one of the many reasons I support a single payer health care system."

– Karen Hescocock, Orwell

"As a young person working hard to make ends meet, I found I just couldn't afford the cost of private health insurance. So going to a doctor was not even an option. When I unexpectedly needed medical tests costing thousands of dollars, it turned into a financial nightmare for me and my family."

– Danielle Warner, Northfield

"Over the last five years, our health care costs have averaged over 15 percent of payroll. Judging by other single-payer systems around the world, going to single-payer should cut our health care costs substantially. Single payer will also eliminate the absurd amount of time every employee spends on health insurance questions and paperwork each year. Removing the burden of administering health insurance will allow more new businesses to launch, and existing businesses to hire more workers. Single payer will make Vermont businesses stronger across the board."

– Bram Kleppner, CEO  
Danforth Pewter  
Middlebury

## Vermont Health Care for All – Single Payer Now.



### About Vermont Health Care for All (VTHCA)

Vermont Health Care for All is a non-profit corporation (501(c) 3), established in 2003 with the purpose of educating the public about the advantages of a universal publicly financed health care system for Vermont. VTHCA is overseen by its board of directors.

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The Legislature passed Act 48 putting Vermont on a path to establish a publicly funded single payer system for all Vermonters in 2017. Green Mountain Care, Vermont's single payer system, will ensure that everyone gets the care they need when they need it!

“I've heard a LOT of things about single payer that are **not true.**

Here's the **STRAIGHT SCOOP!**”

– Dr. Beach Conger