

Green Mountain Care will provide health insurance for all Vermonters in 2017. The State of Vermont is currently researching a proposed benefit package and a plan for paying for Green Mountain Care. We fully expect these details to be public by January 2013 at the latest.

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 and deductibles. With the increased efficiency of a single payer system, expect to pay less for health care.

**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/notesonstraightscoopitpiece?mode=preview&t=pages](http://www.vermontforsinglepayer.org/notesonstraightscoopitpiece?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

### About Vermont Leads

Vermont Leads is a 501c4 organization created in June 2012 dedicated to advancing a single payer health care system that provides affordable, accessible and high quality health care to all Vermonters. Vermont Leads works to educate Vermonters about the advantages of a publicly funded, universal access health care system in Vermont. All funding for Vermont Leads comes from 1199 SEIU United Health Care Workers East, a union of health care workers working in the home care, hospital and nursing home industries, as well as pharmacies, freestanding clinics and other health care settings.

Paid for by Vermont LEADS, Spring Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

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Vermont LEADS

Single Payer NOW!



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

Here’s the **STRAIGHT SCOOP!**”

– Dr. Beach Conger

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!