



For Immediate Release
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Vermont Medical Society Physician Members Adopt 2021 Policies on Health Reform

Montpelier, Vt. (Nov. 20, 2020) – This November, the Vermont Medical Society (VMS) physician members adopted three policy resolutions to address priority issues for the State’s physicians. VMS is the largest physician and physician assistant organization in the State and meets annually to adopt policies relevant to the health of Vermonters. The 2020 policies, which focus on health reform at both the national and state level, reflect the high priority Vermont’s physicians place on improving access to health care for their patients, lowering health care costs and reducing administrative burdens on Vermont clinicians.

The first two 2020 policies reaffirm VMS’ support of universal access to comprehensive, affordable, high-quality health care. One specifically supports a national, single-payer health program to achieve this goal, while the other states that VMS will continue to support Vermont-based reforms and incremental reforms to the current pluralistic system of health coverage while working towards new approaches to achieve universal coverage. The third policy, adopted by the VMS Council (governing board), reaffirms VMS’ support for a robust, well-funded public health system.

VMS members approved these resolutions during the organization’s 207th annual meeting, held virtually on November 7th, 2020 and at the VMS Council meeting, held on November 12th, 2020. VMS resolutions are catalysts for the organization’s legislative efforts and these resolutions will inform the organization’s public policy efforts on behalf of its 2,400 physician and physician

assistant members. [Click here](#) for the full text of the resolutions. In summary, these are the adopted resolutions:

[Reaffirming VMS Principles of Health Reform and Statement of Need for Universal Coverage](#)

VMS members reaffirmed their support, as stated in 1992, [2003](#) and [2005](#), for universal access to comprehensive, affordable, high quality health care centered on increased investment in primary care, reduced administrative burden and public health interventions that address the social determinants of health at both the national and state level. The 2020 resolution recommends that any national, universal health coverage system, including a single-payer health program or a government-sponsored public option, be designed to satisfy specific principles, that include: equitable access to high-value care, a cost-sharing system that does not jeopardize access or create fiscal insolvency, reimbursement for care that is sustainable and that prioritizes primary care, mechanisms to reduce administrative and regulatory burdens on the clinician and the patient and an adequately funded, robust, public health system. At the same time, this resolution establishes that VMS supports current state-based health reform efforts and continued improvements to the pluralistic system of health coverage as the United States transitions to new approaches to achieve universal coverage.

[Support of a Single-Payer, National Health Program](#)

VMS members also adopted a policy advocating for universal access to comprehensive, affordable, high-quality health care through a national, single-payer, health care system, provided that specific defining principles are met in this system. Criteria include that the single-payer system provides comprehensive and high-quality coverage for all medically necessary or appropriate services; prioritizes affordability for all; and provides sufficient, fair, predictable, transparent and sustainable reimbursement, while incentivizing primary care.

[Support for Robust Public Health System](#)

VMS members adopted this resolution that supports adequate funding for a robust public health system and reaffirms VMS' commitment stated in the 2013 resolution "[Advances in Public Health and Health Care Delivery Integration through Population Health](#)" to integrating public health into health care services.

[Click here for the 2020 VMS Resolutions](#)

About the Vermont Medical Society: The Vermont Medical Society is the leading voice of physicians in the state and is dedicated to protecting the health of all Vermonters and improving the environment in which Vermont physicians and physician assistants practice medicine. The Society serves its 2,400 members through public policy advocacy on the state and federal levels, as well as by providing legal, administrative and educational support, producing a rich flow of news and information and offering member benefits that increase medical practice effectiveness and efficiency. For more information, visit www.VTMD.org.