

1 VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY  
2 RESOLUTION

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4 **Responsibility for Health Care in the Ideal System**  
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6 *Adopted on October 25, 2008*  
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9 WHEREAS, The Vermont Medical Society (VMS) initiated a survey of Vermont  
10 physicians in order to better understand their views on satisfaction with practice,  
11 responsibility for health care in the ideal system, and health care priorities; and  
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13 WHEREAS, Included in the 24 item survey were six questions on responsibility for  
14 health care in the ideal system developed by the New Hampshire Medical Society; and  
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16 WHEREAS, Physicians were asked to indicate whether they “strongly agree”, “agree”,  
17 were “neutral”, “disagree”, or “strongly disagree” with each of the 24 statements; and  
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19 WHEREAS, Two hundred Vermont physicians responded to the survey between June 1  
20 and June 30, 2008; and  
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22 WHEREAS, While the gender of respondents appears to generally reflect the  
23 demography of Vermont physicians as reported by the VTDOH, the age distribution  
24 was somewhat younger and there was a higher percentage of primary care physicians  
25 responding than the demography of Vermont physicians; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, Eighty-four percent (169) of those responding indicated that they  
28 “strongly agreed” or “agreed” with the following statement: “In the ideal healthcare  
29 system, basic healthcare would be available to all individuals as part of the social  
30 contract, a right similar to basic education, police and fire protection; and  
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32 WHEREAS, Sixty-eight percent (137) of those responding indicated they “strongly  
33 agreed” or “agreed” with the following statement: “I would favor a simplified payer  
34 system in which public funds, collected through taxes, were used to pay directly for  
35 services to meet the basic health care needs of all citizens; “ and  
36

37 WHEREAS, Ninety-one percent (182) of those responding indicated that they “strongly  
38 agreed” or “agreed” with the following statement: “Putting aside paperwork and  
39 administrative issues, I find the practice of medicine deeply satisfying;“ and  
40

41 WHEREAS, Eighty-seven percent (174) of those responding indicated that they  
42 “strongly agreed” or “agreed” with the following statement: “Paperwork and  
43 administrative issues interfere with my ability to serve patients well; and  
44

45 WHEREAS, Ninety-seven percent (194) of those responding indicated that they  
46 “strongly agreed” or “agreed” with the following statement: “The health of individuals  
47 can be enormously affected by their personal behaviors and choices;” and

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49 WHEREAS, Ninety percent (181) of those responding indicated that they “strongly  
50 agreed” or “agreed” with the following statement: Continued under-reimbursement by  
51 Medicaid will result in access problems for low-income Vermonters;” and

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53 WHEREAS, Ninety-one percent (183) of those responding indicated that they “strongly  
54 agreed” or “agreed” with the following statement: “Facing a shortage of primary care  
55 physicians and a rapidly aging population, the recruitment and retention of physicians  
56 should be a high priority;” now therefore be it

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58 **RESOLVED, In order to ensure access to high quality health care services, the**  
59 **Vermont Medical Society urges the General Assembly and the Administration to**  
60 **make the issues related to recruitment and retention of physicians a high**  
61 **legislative priority; and be it further**

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63 **RESOLVED, The Vermont Medical Society supports the concept that basic**  
64 **healthcare would be available to all individuals as part of the social contract; and**  
65 **be it further.**

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67 **RESOLVED, The Vermont Medical Society supports a simplified payer system to**  
68 **pay directly for services, in which paperwork and administrative issues are**  
69 **minimized, under-reimbursement by Medicaid is addressed; and be it further.**

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71 **RESOLVED, The Vermont Medical Society encourages individuals to take**  
72 **greater responsibility for their personal behaviors and choices to the extent they**  
73 **are able; and be it further**

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75 **RESOLVED, The Vermont Medical Society’s survey makes it clear that while**  
76 **Vermont physicians are dedicated to the profession of medicine and the care of**  
77 **their patients, the present system of financing impedes physicians from being able**  
78 **to adequately provide for the health care needs of all Vermonters.**