



Healthcare Is a Human Right Campaign

2014/15 Policy Positions

August 2014

1. Universal access to care that meets all health needs

- Green Mountain Care must be adequately funded to meet health needs.
- The GMC financing plan must start with health needs and raise resources to follow those needs.
- Access to care must not be rationed by insurance “benefits packages.”
- Patients must receive care for all their health needs, including dental and vision.

2. Everyone contributes through equitable, progressive taxes; no more premiums

- GMC must be funded publicly through the tax system.
- Public financing must replace private insurance premiums.
- Individuals and businesses should contribute according to their ability to pay, in line with the principle of equity. This requires progressive taxes.
- GMC should be funded by a mix of income taxes (on earned and unearned income), wealth taxes and a graduated payroll tax for businesses, with exemptions for the smallest businesses.

3. No more out-of-pocket costs that restrict access to care

- Payment for healthcare must be independent from the use of care.
- GMC must eliminate deductibles and co-pays, which harm people’s health.
- Even small co-pays cause inequality in access to care and lead to poorer health outcomes, while failing to increase cost-effectiveness.

4. Universal = everyone

- Green Mountain Care must include everyone.
- This includes people employed by big, self-insured corporations. These workers should be able to join GMC, and big corporations doing business in Vermont should contribute to funding GMC.

5. Healthcare is a public good that should be publicly financed and administered

- As a public good, healthcare should be administered by a public agency that people can hold accountable. It should not be subcontracted to a private corporation that is looking to profit from healthcare.
- Human rights standards should apply to any public contract, in order to ensure that contractors cannot put profit interests over people’s needs.