



VERMONT ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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February 3, 2011

William Hsiao, PhD
124 Mt. Auburn Street, Suite 410 South
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Dr. Hsiao:

The Vermont Academy of Family Physicians (VTAFP) is very appreciative of the opportunity to comment on your draft report - "Achieving Affordable Universal Health care In Vermont". The VTAFP is in support of the basic structure of option 3, and would strongly support rapid implementation by 2015.

The ability of primary care physicians, especially family physicians, to provide high quality cost-effective care is well documented. Thus, the VTAFP hopes to work through the forthcoming legislative process to ensure that the governing Board will include practicing primary care physicians from the state professional organizations, including the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter, and the American College of Physicians Vermont Chapter. This is one component of health system redesign that is critical to ensuring that your vision of an integrated and effective system is fulfilled.

As the process progresses, we will maintain focus on the principles of universally available quality medical care that is affordable, scientifically sound, accountable, and primary care based. These will define the Vermont system, and all components as they develop must support these principles. Our goal at the end is simple and straightforward: to allow us to take care of our patients and to help them take care of themselves, without the obstacles that we now jointly face.

Thanks to you and your team for all of your efforts on behalf of Vermont, and for considering our input.

Sincerely,

Robert Penney, M.D.

Robert Penney, M.D.
President