

Bipartisan Group of Legislators Propose NEW Health Insurance Exchange
An Insurance Exchange that Will Work for Vermonters

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 22 2015

CONTACT: Rep. Patti Komline
(908) 938-1616

With Vermont Health Connect still unworkable for many Vermonters, and no end in sight to the skyrocketing cost of the Exchange, Rep. Patti Komline (R-Dorset), joined by colleagues from across the political spectrum, is calling for Vermont to transition VHC to a federal-state exchange partnership.

“For years, I have expressed my frustration with the way the Administration proposed and enacted the health insurance exchange,” said Komline. “And, I have brought to the table several options that would have helped make the Exchange work for Vermonters.”

“While none of those proposals were supported by the Administration because of their insistence on creating a single-payer health care system, now that that option is off the table, it is time to make the Exchange work.”

Specifically, Komline, Rep. Heidi Scheuermann (R-Stowe), Rep. Jim Condon (D-Colchester), and Rep. Adam Greshin (I-Warren) are calling for the transition of Vermont Health Connect to a *Supported State-Based Marketplace Exchange*.

“Clearly Vermont Health Connect has been troubled from the beginning,” added Condon. “From the initial rollout of the website, to the suspension of the website, and even now to the thousands of Vermonters who are still in limbo with regard to change of circumstances, this proposal would allow Vermont to return its focus to health care in general and the products being offered, rather than the IT boondoggle we’re in the midst of.”

“After months of similar failures of the state exchange in Oregon, state leaders there saw the wisdom of cutting their losses and transitioning to a “Supported State-Based Marketplace Exchange, and it has worked,” added Scheuermann. “We have been digging the VHC hole long enough. It is time to admit our failures and stop digging.”

“Vermonters are frustrated, and deserve better from us,” said Greshin. “They deserve an Exchange that works. I hope our colleagues from across the political spectrum will join us in advocating for this reform

“The bottom line is that this kind of partnership would provide for the federal government to run the technical aspects of the Vermont Exchange, while maintaining our exchange products, our insurance coverage mandates, and the