

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 17, 2014

Lt. Governor Phil Scott issued the following statement in response to Governor Peter Shumlin's decision not to pursue a single-payer health care plan:

"Today's announcement that Governor Shumlin is scrapping his single-payer plan is a definitive step in the right direction for Vermonters, Vermont businesses and Vermont's economy. As I've said continually over the last two years, if the Governor's single-payer plan places another burden on already overtaxed Vermonters, we simply cannot afford it. At the same time, I've kept an open mind about the idea, waiting to hear the details. Fortunately we heard them today and I am glad the Governor agrees with many of us: Businesses cannot afford an 11.5 percent payroll tax, individuals cannot afford a 9.5 percent income tax, our State cannot afford a \$2.6 billion bill, and Vermont cannot afford to continue down this path of uncertainty. We've already spent far too much money exploring this idea, and the discussion has paralyzed our business community.

"The Governor made the right decision today, especially in light of the mismanagement of Vermont Health Connect and the need to put our full focus on growing Vermont's economy. In that vein, I both hope and expect we will all work together to make sure the exchange works, truly lowers the cost of health care, and insures more Vermonters without taxing people out of the State.

"The bottom line is that I am thankful the uncertainty is over and we can get back to solving the crisis of affordability, a true challenge for far too many Vermonters."