

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shumlin Administration not complying with health care reform law

Montpelier-At a press conference held today in the Cedar Creek Room at the Statehouse, the Vermont House Republican Caucus distributed copies of a letter that will be presented to Secretary of Administration Jeb Spaulding urging him to comply with the health care reform law, Act 48.

Jeffery Wennberg, Executive Director of Vermonters for Health Care Freedom, identified fifteen specific legal requirements the administration has failed to comply with. Most glaring was the omission of the requirements under section 9(b) (1), which call for consideration of financing sources, including “adjustments to the income tax, a payroll tax, consumption taxes, provider assessments required under 33 V.S.A. chapter 19, the employer assessment required by 21 V.S.A. chapter 25, other new or existing taxes, and additional options as determined by the secretary.” Also critical was the failure to provide information about “impacts of tax system changes . . . on individuals, households, businesses, public sector entities, and the nonprofit community.”

Said Wennberg: “There is no analysis of impacts on anyone. To put it bluntly, this report does not comply with the requirements of Act 48.”

Senator Joe Benning (R-Caledonia) stated “this information is essential for all Vermonters, but is especially important to Vermont businesses as they plan for substantial health care reform on January 1, 2014.”

“Our goal today was to shed light on the fact that the Administration of Governor Peter Shumlin is not complying with the Health Care Reform law known as Act 48. All Vermonters are expected to comply with the laws of our state, and we feel that the Governor and his administration should as well. Therefore, we strongly urge the Governor to comply with the law within 15 days,” said House Minority Leader Don Turner.