

# Vermont Campaign for Health Care Security Education Fund

*Working to make health care affordable for every Vermonter.*

## **A PROJECT OF:**

Vermont-NEA  
AARP Vermont  
American Cancer Society  
Vermont Citizens Campaign  
for Health

Testimony of Peter Sterling, VT Campaign for Health Care Security  
Senate Health and Welfare Committee  
February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### **Administration Recommendation of a Wrap Grade A**

It's important to recognize that Vermont is one of only two states that is even considering an additional state wrap.

### **Administration's Recommendation of a Premium Subsidy Grade A-**

Under the Governor's proposal, most people in VHAP and many people in Catamount, particularly in 2 person households will see their monthly premiums decrease. However, there are individuals in Catamount who are entering the Exchange will see their premiums increase.

### **Administration's Recommendation of OOP Subsidies Grade C**

The Administration recommends out of pocket (deductible, co-insurance and OOP maximums) increases from current levels for all individuals 134-300% FPL. To the administration's credit they do extend the state OOP wrap to 350% FPL

Low and middle income people who need ongoing treatment or get injured alot, have to deal with this OOP limit every year making it hard to get out of debt

### **Who are the uninsured?**

1. 12,000 uninsured 100-199% FPL; 9,600 uninsured 200-299% FPL. In other words, about half the uninsured are eligible for a public health care program like VHAP or Catamount

2. Among uninsured adults 18-64: 75.5% work and of these 73% work FT. The uninsured seem to be the working poor.

3. In 2009: 13,400 were ages 45-64. I didn't see these numbers updated in the most recent survey. These people probably know they should have insurance given their age.

**Cost is main reason they are uninsured:** 50% say absolutely the only reason, 22% one of the main reasons. Only 10% said cost was not much of a factor

### **Summary:**

Existing CH/VHAP premiums and OOP levels are a barrier to enrollment, a major factor in the "churn" on and off insurance programs and act as barriers to low and middle income Vermonters receiving necessary treatment.

2 Spring St  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
[www.catamounthealth.org](http://www.catamounthealth.org)  
Toll free helpline:  
1-866-482-4723

**There is significant financial anxiety about the current cost of health care. In 2012:**

94,000 Vermonters said someone in their family was contacted by a collection agency

248,000 Vermonters said they are concerned about being able to afford Rx

140,000 Vermonters said someone in their household had a problem paying medical bill

Because of the financial vulnerability of the population 134-300%FPL, we believe that at the very least people should not be paying more for their health care in the Exchange than they would now under Catamount Health and VHAP.