

Healthcare is a Human Right Campaign

2021 Policy Platform

Everyone in Vermont should get the health care they need. Our government--which is responsible for the public good--can and should make that happen.

The Covid-19 pandemic has revealed, and deepened, the crisis that poor and working-class people face every day in struggling to meet our fundamental human needs. It demands solutions that address the immediate crisis while laying the groundwork to end poverty, ensuring that no one is denied their human right to health, safety, and economic security.

In these unprecedented times, our lives are on the line. Vermont's elected officials must take immediate action to ensure our safety and to secure our health during the pandemic and beyond. We call on Governor Phil Scott and the Legislature to:

I. Keep people safe during the pandemic.

- A. Get the Covid-19 vaccine and treatment to all Vermont residents as soon as possible. No barriers, no delays, no discrimination.
- B. Provide hazard pay and personal protective equipment to all essential workers.
- C. Ensure that all residents can access food, housing, cash assistance and unemployment compensation. Prevent all evictions and utility shut-offs.

II. Guarantee healthcare as a public good.

- A. Expand Green Mountain Care to include all Vermont residents, as originally envisioned in Act 48, by fast-tracking public financing for healthcare.
- B. Do not renew the All-Payer Accountable Care Organization Model Agreement. Transfer the responsibilities and assets currently outsourced to the private corporation OneCare Vermont to the Department of Vermont Health Access.
- C. Deliver adequate funding to hospitals, primary care, and home- and community-based health services. Keep hospitals and clinics open.
- D. Ensure the health and safety of residents and workers in nursing homes and similar facilities by providing long-term care as a public good.

