

1 VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION

2 Cost of Medical Education

3 Adopted October 27, 2012

4
5 Whereas, The cost of undergraduate medical education has been rising at more than twice the rate of
6 inflation;¹

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8 Whereas, As of October 2011, about 80% of medical school graduates' nationally had educational debt of
9 \$100,000 or more and more than one-third of the medical school graduates had educational debt of
10 \$200,000 or more;²

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12 Whereas, This increasing debt level has become unsustainable for medical graduates;
13 Whereas, Vermont faces a serious shortage of both primary care and specialist physicians needed to care
14 for newly insured Vermonters and for increasing numbers of older Vermonters with chronic conditions;
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16 Whereas, in SFY 2010 State funding for educational loan repayment for primary care (MDs/Dos,
17 APRNs, PAs, Hospitalists, Psychiatrists) was reduced from \$ 445,000 to \$285,000, this reduction has
18 not been restored, and in addition a significant source of private funding for educational loan repayment
19 for all physicians has been discontinued;

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21 Whereas, state loan repayment programs have higher retention rates than national loan repayment
22 programs;

23
24 Whereas, In 2011, a Primary Care Workforce Development Strategic Plan presented to the Vermont
25 General Assembly by Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) and the Vermont Department of
26 Health recommended securing increased funding for Vermont's Educational Loan Repayment Program,
27 with the goal of at least tripling the total funding by 2014;³now therefore be it
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29 **RESOLVED, That the Vermont Medical Society will work with the Green Mountain Care**
30 **Board, the Administration, private foundations and other stakeholders to ensure that health care**
31 **reform initiatives and payment reform initiatives address loan repayment and scholarship**
32 **assistance for medical education; and be it further**

33 **RESOLVED, That consistent with health care reform initiatives and payment reform initiatives,**
34 **the Vermont Medical Society will work with the Green Mountain Care Board and the**
35 **Administration to evaluate how all payers, private and public, will support medical education,**
36 **graduate medical education, and loan repayment; and be it further**

37 **RESOLVED, The Vermont Medical Society will work with the state's Congressional**
38 **Delegation, the Vermont General Assembly, AHEC and FQHCs to maintain state and federal tax**
39 **benefits for scholarships and educational loan repayment; and be it further**

¹http://journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/Fulltext/2010/05000/Commentary_The_Unsustainable_Cost_of.13.aspx

²<https://www.aamc.org/download/152968/data/debtfactcard.pdf>

³<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/reports/2011ExternalReports/269845.pdf>

1 **RESOLVED, That the Vermont Medical Society, will work with the UVM College of Medicine,**
2 **Area Health Education Centers Program, Bi-State Primary Care Association, academic medical**
3 **centers, the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems and the Administration to**
4 **evaluate the feasibility of implementing changes to medical education and graduate medical**
5 **education in Vermont, such as proposals to increase loan repayment, maximizing opportunities**
6 **for students to qualify for National Health Service Corps, supporting the development of**
7 **innovative MD curriculum and working with Vermont communities on specific strategies to**
8 **meet their physician needs.**