

CREATION OF VERMONT-NEA EDUCATOR HEALTH CARE COUNCIL

AS APPROVED BY VERMONT-NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

APRIL 7 2018

We, the members of Vermont-NEA, propose the creation of a Vermont-NEA Educator Health Care Council that consists of teacher and ESP members of Vermont-NEA. The Council shall meet regularly to advise, discuss, and make recommendations on policies affecting members' health care benefits and on reforms of the health care system. The council will seek policy reforms that advance and institutionalize the principle that health care is a human right and should be provided as a public good, regardless of income, citizenship, employment status, race, gender or ability.

With the assistance of Vermont-NEA's Director of Member Benefits, the Council shall regularly assess the affordability, equity, and adequacy of members' health care benefits, and shall guide Vermont-NEA's public policy in all matters of health insurance and health care.

The Council shall periodically inform and seek input from the membership at-large on its work and of the work of Vermont-NEA at the state level on school employees' health benefits. The Council shall serve as the union's primary venue for formulating health care policy positions of the union and developing member education and advocacy strategies.

The Council shall also report to the 2019 Representative Assembly – and every subsequent Representative Assembly – on the progress of its work and how policy changes or reforms in health care impact members' medical and economic well-being. Delegates to the Representative Assembly may further revise and adjust the work and mission of the Council to reflect the needs and desires of the membership of Vermont-NEA.

Rationale:

Changes to how member health insurance policies are formulated and how costs are apportioned have been the subject of the 2016 and 2017 legislative sessions. The union expects there will be further policy

and reform discussions in years to come. Any changes to health benefits have a direct effect on members and their families, medically and financially. Thus, it is vital that union members inform and guide the development of the union's approaches to health insurance benefits and health care reform. The Vermont-NEA Educator Health Care Council will provide a vehicle for members to express their needs and their desires to Vermont-NEA as it interacts in various public policy settings.

Cost: \$2690

Approved

