

JAMES H. DOUGLAS
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 19, 2007

Dear Vermonter:

On May 25, 2006, the state of Vermont passed historic health care legislation that guaranteed every uninsured Vermonter access to health coverage. The state of Vermont has served as a national leader in health care reform and we are proud that 90 percent of Vermont residents, including 95 percent of Vermont children, have health insurance.

Although we have come a long way in providing health coverage for uninsured Vermonters, there is still more work to be done. Right now, more than 60,000 residents remain uninsured. Living without health coverage is a risk no one should take. When you are uninsured, you can't always afford to go to the doctor when you need to, letting minor health issues turn into major problems.

As the governor of Vermont, I believe that all Vermont residents should have access to health care. That's why I am proud to announce Green Mountain Care, a family of low-cost and free health coverage programs that work together to offer quality, comprehensive health coverage to uninsured Vermonters, no matter how much they earn.

With the passage of the 2006 Health Care Affordability Act, we made a commitment to proactively identify and reach out to the uninsured in our state—from parents, to young adults, to working Vermonters to seniors—to let them know about the availability of Green Mountain Care and help them enroll. We also set a goal of insuring 96 percent of Vermont residents by 2010. It's ambitious, but with your help, we can accomplish this goal.

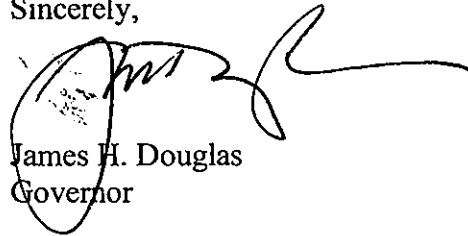
We created the following outreach toolkit, which provides tips, resources and outreach materials for identifying and reaching out to the uninsured in your community to help them enroll in Green Mountain Care. We also created a new Web site, www.GreenMountainCare.org, which has comprehensive information about Green Mountain Care and how to apply for the state's health coverage programs.

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We know that providing health coverage for uninsured Vermont residents means better productivity in the workplace, better school attendance and performance for our children and a more comfortable, secure life for our seniors. We know it can boost our local economies. We also know that giving every uninsured Vermonter the chance to live a healthy life is the right thing to do. And here in Vermont, that is what's most important.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to helping every uninsured Vermonter get the health coverage they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Douglas", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James H. Douglas
Governor

JHD/gkp