

Mitchell R. Fleischer

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South Burlington, VT – A few weeks ago I responded at some length to the decision of the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) denying a license to the Vermont Health CO-OP. We continue to believe that decision was incorrect and we have advised DFR and Commissioner Donegan that the CO-OP will be filing a request that they reconsider and issue a license. It is my sincere hope that DFR will approach that request fairly and with an open mind; that is all we ask.

I believe strongly in the Vermont Health CO-OP and what it will offer Vermonters. I am committed to President Obama's health care reform program and what it will mean to all Americans in the years and decades to come. This Federally funded CO-OP will be innovative, priced competitively and offer Vermonters a 3rd option on the exchange if licensed. The ACA created CO-OPs to bring competition to states where there is very little, like Vermont.

I put many aspects of my personal and professional life on pause as I worked to bring the CO-OP to fruition and to get it licensed and operating in Vermont. I remain dedicated to seeing this happen. However, it has become clear that my continued involvement may serve as a distraction which I cannot permit as the CO-OP moves forward in its effort to demonstrate that it should receive a license so Vermonters may have the choice offered by the CO-OP.

Therefore, effective 6/13/13, I have resigned as Chair and as a member of the CO-OP Board of Directors. David Jillson, has agreed to serve as Interim Chair as the CO-OP moves ahead and I have complete confidence in him, his fellow Directors, and the superb management team of the CO-OP. Thank you.