



Job Announcement:

Health Care Advocate/Organizer

VPIRG is looking for a mission-driven, politically savvy advocate/organizer with strong communications and strategic campaign skills to join our team as we fight to advance public interest health care policies. The advocate/organizer will help implement VPIRG's Health Care for All campaign, while providing backup for other public interest campaigns that VPIRG is leading. This position offers a unique opportunity for professional development and growth as you work on cutting edge issues affecting Vermont and the nation.

About VPIRG: VPIRG's mission is to promote the health and well-being of Vermont's people and environment by informing and mobilizing citizens across the state. For more than 35 years we have represented the public's voice and countered special interest influence on issues of public health, the environment, consumer protection and democracy. VPIRG's work has helped keep Vermont on the cutting edge of critical national issues ranging from global warming to affordable health care. In each case, we identify innovative solutions and build the political support necessary to put practical ideas into action. The organization has 10 full-time staff and a summer field staff of 30. Our annual budget is just under \$1 million. You can find more information about VPIRG and our campaigns on our web site at: www.vpirg.org.

Job Summary: The Advocate/Organizer position includes elements of both State House public interest lobbying and grassroots field organizing to advance the cause of quality, affordable health care for all in Vermont. Major elements of the position include

- **Campaign Strategy and Planning:** Create a plan for winning our public interest campaigns; strategize how to gain political support for our agenda using tactics such as research, coalition-building, grassroots organizing, media publicity, lobbying, litigation, public endorsements and message development.
- **Advocacy:** Bring problems and compelling solutions to the attention of decision-makers at the local, state and national level through lobbying, testimony and written materials.
- **Media and Public Outreach:** Serve as the public spokesperson for our health care campaigns – through media events, press releases and editorial board meetings. Utilize VPIRG's email action network to foster increased public action on key issues.
- **Field Organizing:** Create and sustain partnerships with allied organizations. Assess and determine grassroots organizing opportunities to advance campaign efforts. Organize and facilitate public events to raise awareness and garner support for campaigns.
- **Fundraising and Administrative:** A critical component of all VPIRG work is to 'pay as you go', or assist in fundraising for your own position and the organization as a whole. To this end all staff members participate in various aspects of fundraising including grants, events, and major donor campaigns.

Qualifications: At least 2 years of experience in advocacy and/or organizing. Must be politically strategic, media savvy and possess strong writing and public speaking skills. Experience with issue-based political campaigns including recruitment, training, messaging and direct negotiation with leaders. We're looking for a solid project manager with keen attention to detail. Background/knowledge of health care policy issues is a plus. Candidates must be able to travel (within state) and work evening/weekend hours as necessary. Commitment to VPIRG's issues and a mission-driven approach are essential in this demanding and highly-professional work environment.

Compensation: Competitive salary depending on experience, ranging from \$27-35k. VPIRG offers an excellent benefits package including employer-paid health, vision, dental and disability insurance, employer-matching IRA contributions of up to 3% of salary, four weeks paid vacation plus personal days.

Application Process: Send resume and cover letter (preferably via email) to Colleen Thomas, colleen@vpirg.org or VPIRG, 141 Main Street, Suite 6, Montpelier, VT 05602. VPIRG is an equal opportunity employer. Seeking a September start date; this position will remain open until filled.