Rep. Peter Welch issued the below statement following that announcement that OneCare Vermont Accountable Care Organization has received federal approval.

"As usual, Vermont is leading the way. Accountable care organizations like 'OneCare Vermont' will transform the health care payment system by rewarding providers for improvements in a patient's health rather than the number of procedures they perform. It is a common sense approach that I will be working to expand nationwide."

Welch was the author of the provision in the Affordable Care Act that authorized the pilot ACO program under which OneCare Vermont received approval. Nationwide, ACOs are expected to save $1.1 billion over the next five years, according to the Department of Health and Human Service.