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Welch works to block doubling of student loan interest rate

Rep. Welch helped pass legislation to block the scheduled doubling of interest rates on Federal Direct Stafford Student Loans. The one year agreement will benefit 19,024 Vermont students with an average per borrower savings of \$1,020. Rep. Welch said, "This is great news and will provide immediate relief to Vermont families struggling to pay college tuition bills. And it's a good example of how Congress can set aside its differences for the benefit of the American people." [Read more.](#)

Welch welcomes Supreme Court decision upholding health care law

Rep. Welch praised the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act and urged both parties to set aside differences to make the law work for the American people. "Amidst the contentious national health care debate over the last two years," Welch said, "there has been widespread consensus on one thing: America's health care system is broken. The only beneficiaries of the status quo are insurance companies and their executives. Working families need the peace of mind and that comes with quality and affordable health care coverage. And businesses need to compete in a global economy without the heavy burden of skyrocketing employee health care premiums." [Read more.](#)

Welch demands end to rip-off student loan fees charged by big banks

Rep. Welch is demanding an end to rip-off debit and prepaid card fees charged to college students by big banks. Banks and financial firms have struck deals with many colleges and universities, allowing them to disperse federal student aid through student checking accounts. As a result, these banks are skimming a profit off student financial aid checks through unnecessary fees. [Read more.](#)

Audit underway of Afghan taxes on U.S. aid

Rep. Welch welcomed the news that the U.S. government will audit the Afghan government's

practice of taxing U.S. companies delivering aid to the war-torn country. Welch has led the House effort to ban this practice since it was first reported in the media. He has introduced bipartisan legislation to prohibit U.S. assistance to Afghanistan unless the government abandons its policy. [Read more.](#)

Obama signs into law Welch-sponsored legislation supporting General Electric plant in Rutland

Rep. Welch worked to pass a bipartisan reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, which finances sales of U.S.-made goods, including GE parts, to international buyers. With the support of this program, the Rutland GE plant has experienced a 10 percent increase in production. At a visit to the plant, Rep. Welch said, “To be here at your facility to see the products that you're making and knowing that you have a good shot at continuing your good work and keeping people employed, that's what Vermonters want, that's what America wants and that's what you're doing.” [Read more.](#)

Five Vermont airports to receive \$1.2 million for improvements

Rep. Welch, along with Senator Leahy and Senator Sanders, announced that five Vermont airports will receive \$1.2 million in federal assistance to conduct much needed repairs and enhancements. “In a rural state like Vermont, regional airports help connect Vermont businesses and individuals to the world. Ensuring the reliability and safety of these regional hubs is incredibly important to Vermont’s economy,” Welch, Leahy and Sanders said. [Read more.](#)

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