

[HOME](#)[ABOUT PETER](#)[HELPING VERMONTERS](#)[ISSUES](#)[IN VERMONT](#)[NEWSROOM](#)[CONTACT](#)

Fighting for Vermont's small businesses

Jeff Wheel of Advance Music in Burlington loses \$2,000 a month because of a loophole that lets online giants like eBay avoid collecting sales tax, a major competitive advantage that is making it harder for Vermont's Main Street businesses to compete. Rep. Welch this month introduced a bill to close this loophole, leveling the playing field for small business owners like Jeff and strengthening Vermont downtowns. [Read more.](#)

Eliminating student financial red tape

As Vermonters eagerly await college acceptance letters, Rep. Welch is pushing for legislation to ease the burden of applying for student financial aid. The current form that determines eligibility consists of 31 complicated questions that ask for duplicative information. Rep. Welch's bill would streamline the application process for Vermont students and families. [Read more.](#)

Protecting employee privacy

Would you hand over your Facebook password if your employer or prospective employer demanded it? Rep. Welch doesn't think you should have to make that decision. He has written a bill to prohibit compelling or coercing employees to provide access to data stored in private accounts like Facebook, Twitter, or Gmail. [Read more.](#)

Fighting to protect Medicare, lower drug costs, and trim the deficit

With Congress at loggerheads over how to cut the debt, Rep. Welch has an approach that will save \$160 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office, while lowering prescription drug prices for seniors and strengthening the Medicare program. Welch's bill would allow the federal government to negotiate prescription drug prices, putting the purchasing power of millions on Medicare beneficiaries to work to lower prescription drug prices for seniors and save taxpayers money. [Read more.](#)

Helping Vermont veterans start a small business

Rep. Welch was in Randolph this month to launch the Office of Veterans' Entrepreneurship, a partnership that will provide support to veterans hoping to start or expand their own businesses. "This center will serve as an incubator to help Vermont's veterans turn their good business ideas into reality," Welch said. [Read more.](#)