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Government agencies are open once again. America continues to pay its bills, and the Affordable Care Act is the law of the land

America just endured a reckless and manufactured crisis due to the determined efforts of a faction in Congress intent on repealing the Affordable Care Act in spite of it being passed by Congress and upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. Rep. Welch [voted for](#) the bipartisan agreement that ended this fiasco which inflicted pain on countless Americans, including Vermont's federal employees, the Vermont National Guard, and small businesses throughout our state. He also rallied 187 of his colleagues in support of the previously unquestioned principle that America pays its bills. [Read more.](#)

Calling out J.P. Morgan's quiet plan to reach into the taxpayer's pocket to help pay its penalty for Wall Street meltdown

News reports indicate that J.P. Morgan is planning to write off a portion of a multi-billion dollar penalty for its' role in triggering the near collapse of the American economy in 2008. Rep. Welch just sent a letter to CEO Jamie Dimon demanding that his company not ask for yet another taxpayer handout and instead "accept full responsibility for the full payment" of any penalties arising from ongoing settlement talks between the U.S. Justice Department and the company. [Read more.](#) Rep. Welch will soon introduce legislation to close the loophole that allows corporations like J.P. Morgan to bill taxpayers for penalties assessed for unlawful conduct.

Innovating to make college more affordable

Rep. Welch, joined by Vermont's higher education leaders, recently announced his bipartisan legislation to cut college costs by changing the way students earn a college degree. "The Flexibility to Innovate for College Affordability Act" is a two-pronged approach that encourages flexible pathways for students to earn a degree more quickly and eliminates outdated and unnecessary federal regulations that contribute to tuition hikes. [Read more](#) about Rep. Welch's work to make college more affordable and how Vermont schools are [already innovating](#) to create flexible pathways to higher education.

Demanding a level playing field for Vermont wood manufacturers

Rep. Welch testified before the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) in support of Vermont's wood product manufacturers who are fighting for survival as a result of illegal Chinese trade activities. "Thousands of employers and employees of the hardwood veneer and hardwood plywood industry in Vermont and across the country are struggling for survival in the face of the flooding of the market with illegal Chinese hardwood panels," Rep. Welch told the federal regulatory body. He urged the panel to level the playing field for Vermont's wood product businesses, their employees, and their high quality products. [Read more.](#)

Relocating Rep. Welch's Vermont office to an energy efficient location

Rep. Welch's Vermont office has moved to an historic and energy efficient building in Burlington's South End. The building harnesses geothermal energy for cooling and achieved an overall 99 percent Energy Star rating. Rep. Welch, the leader in the House of Representatives on energy efficiency issues, has [introduced several bills](#) modeled after Vermont's pioneering efficiency programs. Vermonters seeking assistance with federal agencies or to give input on federal issues can visit the new office at 128 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 235 in Burlington, or call (888) 605-7270. [Read more.](#)

Rep. Welch's September recap album is on Facebook

View Rep. Welch's September recap album for photos at the Tunbridge Fair, the grand reopening of the Taftsville Covered Bridge, business visits and more. [View here.](#)

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