



VERMONT ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Vermont Chapter

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Vermont Psychiatric
ASSOCIATION

American Academy of Pediatrics

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To: Chair Lori Houghton and Members of the House Health Care Committee
From: Stephanie Winters, Deputy Director, Vermont Medical Society;
Executive Director, Vermont Academy of Family Physicians
Executive Director, American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter;
Executive Director, Vermont Psychiatric Association
Date: April 19, 2023
RE: S.37 – Amendment on Medication Protections

Good Morning, Stephanie Winters, Deputy Director of the Vermont Medical Society and also representing the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter and the Vermont Psychiatric Association. I am speaking today in strong support of the amendment to S.37.

As you are all probably aware, recently litigation has thrown into question access to safe, medication abortion not just in other states but in Vermont;

Medication abortion has been safely and effectively used since its approval by the FDA in 2000 and is the standard of care beyond uses for termination of pregnancy.

Medications used for termination of pregnancy are used more broadly in women's health such as for miscarriage management, induction of labor for stillbirth (late in pregnancy) and live birth, post-partum and post-menopausal bleeding and new research is showing use in uterine fibroids. I will reiterate, beyond abortion, these drugs have far reaching impacts on women and their health outcomes.

The overall purpose of S. 37 is to protect health care professionals providing and persons seeking and obtaining reproductive health services in Vermont from legal liability and professional sanctions when those services are lawful in Vermont and meet standards for good professional practice;

This amendment would make it clear that those protections extend to medications approved by the FDA for abortion regardless of their current FDA approval status. This will facilitate Vermont having mifepristone on hand while it is still approved by the FDA and protect the use of the medication in the future even if it loses its FDA approval status due to the pending court cases.

If FDA approval is reversed our members still want to use these evidence-based medications because of their safety, efficacy and they are the standard of care. But they need assurance from the legislature and the AG that they support them in doing so. The AG has said a resounding yes and we hope you do as well.