



To: Chair Lori Houghton and Members of the House Health Care Committee
From: Stephanie Winters - Vermont Medical Society - swinters@vtmd.org
Date: March 2, 2023
RE: H.206 – Section on Access to Vermont Prescription Monitoring System (VPMS)

Thank you for allowing us to testify on H.206, the Department of Vermont Health Access Miscellaneous Changes bill.

VMS would like to share our perspective on section 3 of the bill pertaining to the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System (VPMS) and the use of the data in this important registry.

VMS was involved in the design of VPMS at its inception and has always been our position that the focus should be clinical improvement and coordination and not enforcement purposes.

VPMS is an important tool for clinicians to use for improving clinical care and safety. It contains extremely sensitive health care data including patient and clinician's prescription history, so for this reason any access beyond prescribers and patients is, and should be, very limited.

All other agencies discussed in the statute regarding access to VPMS data have one identified role and designee – for example: The Commissioner of Health or the Commissioner's designee; The Commissioner of Public Safety, personally, or the Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety, personally.

We had initial concerns with the 1 new addition (Pharmacy Director) and 2 designees being added in the bill as introduced. We spoke to DVHA and understand they are open to only adding a designee for their medical director and VMS would be comfortable with this approach.