



# VERMONT PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

February 10, 2014

To: House Human Service Committee  
From: Rick Barnett, Psy.D., LADC,  
President - Vermont Psychological Association  
Re: H. 69

The Vermont Psychological Association, the Vermont Mental Health Counselors Association, and the National Association of Social Workers, Vermont Chapter support reimbursement to LADC providers in independent practice for those who hold a Master's degree or Doctorate in a related human services field.

Improved access to vital alcohol and substance abuse treatment can be achieved by improving access to independent practitioners who hold the minimum licensing standards. Given the fact that up to 70% of people with alcohol and/or drug abuse problems also have co-occurring mental health issues and past or current issues related to trauma and violence, it is imperative that clinicians treating this population have completed post-baccalaureate educational minimums.

We urge the House Committee on Human Services to adopt the following language

## § 813. MEDICAID PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS

The Department of Vermont Health Access may grant authorization to Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors who hold a minimum of a Master's Degree in a related social science field to participate as a Medicaid provider to deliver clinical and case coordination services to Medicaid beneficiaries, regardless of whether the counselor is affiliated with a preferred provider agency.

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