



To: Sen. Jeanette K. White, Chair, Committee on Government Operations
Members of the Senate Government Operations Committee: Sen. Anthony Pollina, Vice Chair;
Sen. Christopher Bray; Sen. Joe Benning; and Sen. Brian Collamore, Clerk

To: Sen. Ann Cummings, Chair, Senate Committee on Education
Members of the Committee: Sen. Bill Doyle, Vice Chair; Sen. Philip Baruth; Sen. David
Zuckerman; Sen. Brian Campion; and Sen. Dustin Degree, Clerk

From: Peter Cobb, Director, VNAs of Vermont
RE: Licensing of Speech Language Pathologists - H. 562, S. 217
DATE: April 14, 2016

On behalf of the members of the VNAs of Vermont, I ask that your committees support the proposal by the Office of Professional Regulations to streamline the licensing process for speech language pathologists who teach in Vermont's public schools. VNAVt members have several SLPs who work for both home care and a school. Under current law, they must get two separate licenses. This is duplicative and unnecessarily expensive.

We support the OPR proposal to streamline certification under one license and one department, which would be more convenient and less expensive for licensees and more efficient for the State as the regulatory oversight would be in one department not two.

Home care and hospice have considerable experience with the Office of Professional Regulations as that office administers licenses not just to our speech therapists but also to our nurses and social workers and certifies our home health aides. OPR licenses 60,000 workers in nearly 50 professions in Vermont. From our experience, we are confident they can do the job required.

It is difficult to recruit speech therapists, especially in rural areas, so anything the State can do to make it easier to recruit them such as not charging duplicative licensing fees or requiring duplicative licenses would be greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Peter Cobb, VNAVt Director

