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MEMORANDUM

January 23, 2014

TO: Senator Jeanette White, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

Representative Donna Sweaney, Chair
House Committee on Government Operations

FR: Christopher Winters, Esq.
Director of Professional Regulation

RE: Summary of the OPR Sunrise Report on Dental Practitioners

The OPR Report on the Regulation of Dental Practitioners dated October 7, 2013 has caused some confusion around the OPR's position and recommendations. I thought it might be helpful to clarify and summarize the findings and recommendations:

- Dental practitioners do not exist in the State of Vermont. Therefore, a sunrise review of whether or not to regulate the nonexistent profession is premature and not feasible.
- It is up to the legislature to decide the policy issue of whether or not to create the profession.
- We asked many questions in the report that we found might be helpful to have answered prior to deciding whether or not to allow dental practitioners to exist in the State. Many of those questions are answered in the exhibits submitted for sunrise review and can be answered by those interested in creating the profession.
- If they did exist as a profession, it would make sense that they should be licensed and regulated in the same fashion as other dental professionals, so another sunrise review is not necessary.
- If the Legislature decides to create the category of dental practitioner, the OPR would welcome the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the statutes creating this new profession.