

3/27/15

To Vermont Senate Health and Welfare Committee:

On behalf of the Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians (VANP), I would like to express our support for the provision in H.487, which addresses the discrepancies in reimbursement rates to independent practitioners.

Naturopathic Physicians in Vermont are all independent practitioners. Although Hospital Networks, such as University of Vermont Health Network with over 600 doctors, have acquired many independent medical practices, many health care providers are still part of an independent practice. Because of their size and resources, these Hospital Networks are able to negotiate higher reimbursement rates for the same services as those provided in independent practices - sometimes as much as 30% higher than reimbursements received by independent practitioners. This discrepancy puts an added financial burden on already stretched independent practices.

VANP supports the language in section 4 (2) and (3) that addresses these discrepancies.

Bill Warnock, ND

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