



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND  
WELFARE

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Senator Tim Ashe, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance

From: Senator Claire Ayer, Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

Date: April 7, 2016

Subject: H.620, An act relating to health insurance and Medicaid coverage for contraceptives

The Senate Committee on Health and Welfare has taken testimony on H.620, An act relating to health insurance and Medicaid coverage for contraceptives, and a majority of the Committee supports as a form of preventive health care the proposal to make contraceptive services available to Vermonters without cost-sharing. Much of what is in the bill codifies existing practice under the Affordable Care Act. Data also show that long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) are approximately 20 times more effective than oral contraceptives and thus prevent unwanted pregnancies and abortions. The Committee on Health and Welfare urges the Committee on Finance to take up the bill.

The Committee on Health and Welfare continues to have a few concerns about the bill that fall under the purview of the Committee on Finance, however, and we encourage the Committee on Finance to determine:

- Whether Medicaid reimbursement for LARCs, which are estimated to increase under the provisions of the bill by about \$200 each, will be sufficient to optimize the timing of LARC insertions. The amount proposed pays less than one-third of providers' acquisition costs.
- Whether the bill would require providers and insurers to support reversals of vasectomies and tubal ligations.
- How the bill will affect insurance premiums, since insurers will be required to absorb existing cost-sharing that is beyond the scope of the preventive services as defined by the ACA.