

Hello,

I would encourage you to vote no to change the licensing requirements for nurse practitioners. I work closely with nurse practitioners as part of my practice, but also receive referrals from nurse practitioners as a specialist.

Nurse practitioners are a critical part of Vermont's health care structure and help extend primary care to those who would not otherwise receive care. However, this is best accomplished in collaboration with physicians rather than in isolation. Both for support for nurse practitioners practices as well as for patient safety. I work with multiple nurse practitioners and could not effectively practice medicine in Vermont without them.

Despite these collaborative practice agreements, I receive a huge number of consults for patient lab results slightly out of the norm from nurse practitioners and physicians assistants (namely the complete blood count). Recent examples include transient decreased white cell counts associated with viral illnesses and not diagnosing iron deficiency anemia.

This happens because they currently lack physicians they can request help with cases outside of their expertise. I believe these changes would only exacerbate these issues.

Thank you for hearing my concerns,

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