

Christine O'Neill, Legislative Liaison
Will Hoser, Vermont Board of Medical Practice Representative
Physician Assistant Academy of Vermont
45 Lyme Road - Suite 304
Hanover, NH 03755

March 24, 2017

Representative Bill Lippert, Chair
House Committee on Health Care
Montpelier, VT 05601

Dear Representative Lippert:

The Physician Assistant Academy of Vermont (PAAV) supports efforts to expand the services offered by the Vermont Practitioner Health Program.

We believe that enabling the Vermont Practitioner Health Program to be able to offer confidential services tailored to medical professionals with mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety and burnout would provide an important resource for the 360+ physician assistants in our state. We hope that this will provide a safe resource where clinicians can turn for help before their condition begins to impact their ability to practice medicine. However, if their condition rises to the level of Board of Medical Practice involvement, VPHP will also be able to provide services to help monitor a clinician and/or help them return to practice safely. This can be an important tool in strengthening and retaining our health care workforce.

We understand that to meet the needs of an increased number of participants with a different set of clinical needs, the VPHP program will require additional staff. The PAAV would support a future increase in the assessment on physician assistant licensing fees to fund the VPHP program from \$10 every two years to \$20 every two years.

Please contact us if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Christine O'Neill, PA-C
PAAV Legislative Liaison

Will Hoser, PA-C
PA Representative and Chair, Vermont Board of Medical Practice