



**CITY OF BURLINGTON  
BOARD OF HEALTH**

645 Pine Street  
Post Office Box 849  
Burlington, VT 05402-0849  
802-863-0442  
802-652-4221 FAX  
802-863-0450 TTY

---

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

David Casey, RN, Chair • Mary D. Hart, RN • Julie Hathaway, MD, PhD • Caroline Tassey, APRN • Taylor Newton

**HEALTH OFFICER**

William Ward

**HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR**

Patrick Maury

The Honorable Ann Pugh  
VT House of Representatives  
115 State Street  
State House  
Montpelier VT 05633

Dear Representative Pugh,

April 25, 2018

The Burlington Board of Health met on January 25<sup>th</sup> and, after discussion, voted to make the following recommendation to our legislators:

Most states legalizing medical cannabis have included language to protect patients from discrimination in a variety of areas including medical treatment. Some states have specifically addressed access to organ transplant in these provisions. For example, New Hampshire's medical cannabis bill states, "For the purposes of medical care including organ transplants, qualifying patient's authorized use of cannabis according to [this bill] should be considered the equivalent of any other medication."

Whereas Vermonters have been denied access to evaluation for transplant based solely on their authorized use of medical cannabis, and

Whereas the Vermont bill authorizing the use of medical cannabis contains no provision prohibiting discrimination in medical treatments/care

The Burlington Board of Health recommends that the legislature amend the existing bill to include language prohibiting denial of access to medical care including organ transplant solely on the basis of medical cannabis use.

We would appreciate your conveying this recommendation to the appropriate legislative committee.

Sincerely,

David Casey, Board of Health Chair