

Memorandum

To: House Health Care Committee
From: Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians (VANP)
Date: May 10, 2017
Re: H.29 – Support for Payment Parity for Independent Practitioners

The Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians (VANP) represents naturopathic physicians in the state of Vermont, who provide primary care services for at least 25,000 Vermonters each year. Many Naturopathic physicians (NDs) are also part of the Vermont Blueprint for Health and are considered medical homes.

NDs are concerned about pay parity because virtually all NDs in Vermont are in independent practice and, therefore, get reimbursed 1/2-1/3 what other physicians in non-independent practices are reimbursed for the same services. NDs are disproportionately affected by this disparity, because close to 100% of NDs are in independent practice, compared to a much smaller percentage for medical doctors and osteopathic physicians.

As it is well-known that Vermont is in a physician shortage, we feel that true pay parity is an issue that will keep more physicians in the state of Vermont, making it more attractive to independent physicians of all degrees who want to help stem the physician shortage.

We support the provisions related to health care professional payment parity in H.29 and urge the House Health Care Committee to support the Senate Proposal of Amendment to H.29.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.