

**Department of Vermont Health Access**  
**Vermont Blueprint for Health**  
NOB 1 South, 280 State Dr.  
Waterbury, VT 05671-1010  
[www.blueprintforhealth.vermont.gov](http://www.blueprintforhealth.vermont.gov)  
[phone] 802-241-0231

To: House Human Services Committee

Re: S.225 An act related to pilot programs for coverage by commercial health insurers of costs associated with medication assisted treatment

From: *Beth* Beth Tanzman, Executive Director Vermont Blueprint for Health, DVHA

Date: April 16, 2018

This memo is to summarize the testimony I offered on S. 225 to the House Human Services Committee on April 11, 2018. I testified with my colleague, Michael Costa, Deputy Commissioner of DVHA. We supported the bill as passed the Senate. We supported the language of alignment with the current Blueprint payment system for Spoke staffing of office based opioid treatment programs. We concurred with the language about alignment with potential integration of Medicare funding and that of integration with accountable care organizations.

I look forward to working with the commercial insurers to design such pilots and to reporting our progress on pilot design to both the Senate Health and Welfare and House Human Services Committees on or before January 15, 2019.

As background for the committee, I provided a written description of the current process that Medicaid and the Blueprint use to pay for Spoke staffing.

On April 12 I corresponded with Legislative Counsel Katie McLinn to clarify the meaning of “a physician or advanced practice registered nurse who is not affiliated with an authorized treatment program but who meets federal requirements for use of controlled substances in the pharmacological treatment of opioid addiction.” This language is currently used in 18 V.S.A section 4752(b)(4) and I believe it is quite feasible to design pilots consistent with this language.

Cc: Michael Costa  
Amerin Aborjaily  
Katie McLinn