



VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

May 2, 2018

House Committee on Human Services
State of Vermont
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Sent via email to: jtucker@leg.state.vt.us

RE: Response to Section 4 of S.216, Administration of Vermont's Medical Marijuana Registry

Dear Chair Pugh and Committee Members:

Thank you for providing the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (VAHHS) the opportunity to comment on S.216, an act relating to the administration of Vermont's Medical Marijuana Registry.

VAHHS represents all of Vermont's not-for-profit hospitals. One of our priorities for 2018 is to ensure access to high quality care for Vermonters. We are concerned that Section 4 of S.216 limits treatment options by legislating clinical standards.

Section 4 of S.216 prohibits health care providers from considering marijuana use by a registered patient as the sole reason for disqualifying the patient from any needed medical procedure or treatment. This requirement puts into legislation a clinical decision that should be made between patient and health care provider and may vary depending on individual circumstances or evolving clinical research. For instance, the language as currently written would prohibit a physician from considering marijuana use when prescribing medications even if such use would result in an adverse outcome for the patient. As a result, VAHHS recommends removing the "sole factor" language from S.216 in its entirety. If the committee chooses to move forward on this issue, we recommend the following clarification:

(g) The use of marijuana by a registered patient shall receive the same clinical consideration as the use of other legal substances.

This language is in line with [New Hampshire's law](#) and the recommendations from the [Vermont Medical Society](#).

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Devon Green, Vice President of Government Relations
Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems