



**Vermont Association of
Hospitals and Health Systems**

January 24, 2018

Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
State of Vermont
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Sent via e-mail to: fbrown@leg.state.vt.us

RE: Support for S.164, Establishing the Unused Prescription Drug Repository Program

Dear Madam Chair Ayer and Committee Members,

Thank you for providing the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (VAHHS) with the opportunity to show its support for S. 164, Establishing the Unused Prescription Drug Repository Program.

VAHHS represents all of Vermont's not-for-profit hospitals. One of our advocacy principles for 2018 is to ensure access to Vermont's top-rated health care system and services by making health care more affordable for Vermonters. High prescription drug prices create barriers to care for Vermonters every day. An unused prescription drug repository for dispensing low-cost prescription drugs to eligible Vermonters will provide greater access to much-needed treatments and help Vermonters avoid health crises due to inability to pay for prescription drugs.

VAHHS has been working with the Vermont Department of Health, BiState Primary Care Association, the VNAs of Vermont, the Vermont Health Care Association, and the University of Vermont Medical Center on this legislation. We support the Vermont Department of Health's suggested amendments to the current bill and look forward to working with you further on this issue.

Thank you for taking up this bill and for considering VAHHS's comments. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

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