



April 12, 2018

To: Members of the House Health Care & Senate Health & Welfare Committees

From: Vermont Health Care Stakeholders

Re: H.912, the Lyons Amendment to Require a Health Care Professional on the Green Mountain Care Board

Dear House Health Care & Senate Health & Welfare Committee Members,

Along with the 2,000 members of the Vermont Medical Society (VMS), we, the undersigned organizations, urge you to support the Lyons amendment for H.912, which would require at least one member of the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) to be a currently or recently-practicing health care professional.

Currently, the state of Vermont is in the process of transforming our entire health care system and at the center of this substantial reform is the Green Mountain Care Board. The Board is responsible for regulating hospital budgets and health insurance rates, implementing the ACO/All Payer Model and embarking on a completely new way of paying providers.

Each decision the GMCB makes stands to have considerable impact on every health care provider and most importantly, every patient in the state. Health care professionals have been trained to take care of patients and their clinical experience can be invaluable when grappling with critical health care reform issues. The Board benefitted from a physician member at its inception and most recently a primary care doctor and RN provided the clinician perspective.

VMS Executive Director Jessa Barnard says, "That clinician perspective is unique, and having someone who's been in the exam room with patients and managed patient care and seen how health care works on the ground is a necessary and valuable perspective."

Like all Vermonters, we are dependent on the success of the GMCB in implementing the ACO/All Payer Model, increasing access to quality patient care, controlling the rate of growth of health care costs and other significant health care strategies. Please support the requirement of a health care professional on the GMCB by voting YES on the Lyons amendment for H.912.

Sincerely,

Vermont Medical Society

American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter

Vermont Academy of Family Physicians

Physician Assistant Association of Vermont

Bi-State Primary Care

VNAs of Vermont

Health First Vermont

Vermont Dental Society

Vermont Psychological Association

Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association

American Nurses Association Vermont

American Lung Association Vermont

Vermont Climate and Health Alliance

Vermont Public Health Association