

To the Senate Health & Welfare Committee,  
The Vermont Psychological Association supports the possible amendment to H.912 that will include language that the GMCB have at least one health provider as a board member.

We would ask that the definition of health care provider be more broad and inclusive of the broader Health Care Provider Workforce with specific language for Mental Health Providers and Naturopathic Physicians, both consider Primary Care Providers in Vermont Statutes.

Mental health care is a vital part of all health care delivered regardless of health care setting - hospitals, FQHC's, Medical Homes, all medical practices, community clinics, agencies, etc..

Personally, having been one of 5 candidates interviewed by the Governor for the most recent opening on the GMCB, and having recently stepped down from the Governor's Healthcare Workforce Workgroup, I feel strongly that Mental Health and Health Care are synonymous and therefore representation and the perspective of the Mental Health/Substance Abuse Provider workforce on the GMCB is important.

Naturopathic Physicians are essential Primary Care Providers in Vermont and must be included as well. Naturopathic physicians are a core and growing group of providers who deliver quality care to thousands of Vermonters every day.

Proposed language addition below:

At least one member of the Board shall be an individual licensed to practice medicine under 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, an individual licensed as a physician assistant under 26 V.S.A. chapter 31, or an individual licensed as a registered nurse or an advanced practice registered nurse under 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, **a naturopathic physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 81; a psychologist licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 55; a social worker licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 61; an alcohol and drug abuse counselor licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 62; a clinical mental health counselor licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. 2 chapter 65.**

Thank you for considering this proposed amendment, to the proposed amendment to H.912. Thank you for your service in Vermont.

--

***Rick Barnett, Psy.D., LADC***

*M.S. Clinical Psychopharmacology*

*56 Old Farm Rd., Stowe VT, 05672*

*Ph: 802 373-2909 Fx: 888-923-3476*

*Website: [www.bpshealth.com](http://www.bpshealth.com)*

*Twitter: @drnickbarnett*

OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TAPPING WISDOM WHEN FACED WITH PAIN AND FEAR