



House Committee on Health Care
109 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont
3-28-2019

Honored Health Care Committee Members,

I am Meredith Roberts, the Executive Director of ANA-Vermont, and represent the voice of many professional nurses in Vermont when I state that we strongly support a health care professional on the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB). Nurses in Vermont manage costs and provide quality care, which is more difficult if decisions are made by people who have no experience of the direct effect policy has on care implementation. Quality care cannot be achieved without involving top stakeholders who are affected. There are >25000 nurses in Vermont

Nurses witness the result of high insurance deductibles that delay treatment, long waiting times in emergency rooms, unaffordable medication, and must clean up the damage left behind. At the same time nurses are implementing quality assurance programs, implementing original research ideas, complying with regulatory boards and managing with minimal staff and money, and charting their evaluation. If the GMCB's three responsibilities are regulation, innovation, and evaluation, I can think of no one more qualified than a nurse who strives to improve health of people in Vermont, and affordable access to quality care for all.

The Board needs the inside perspective of the impact of policy, or unintended effects will be common. A health professional can provide insight. Nurses spend more time with patients than any other health care providers; hence are more aware of patient outcomes and care quality.

Nurses are extremely aware of workforce issues as the nurse shortage increases, and nurse faculty shortages loom. It is hard to recruit faculty when asking them to work longer hours and get paid \$20-60 thousand less. They are well-informed about violence as the most nurses have experienced violence. Nurses are knowledgeable about the opioid crisis and end of life issues. Nurses have been rated highest for honesty and ethics for 17 years in a row. Health professionals are excellent problem solvers under pressure who work well with others.

- ANA –Vermont strongly supports the wording in the statute to include “an individual licensed as a registered nurse or an advanced practice registered nurse under 26 V.S.A. chapter 28”.
- S.42 sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 9374 wording has been clarified sufficiently to ensure that the health care professional will not have to cease employment to be on the Board, or be disqualified, as the GMCB provides oversight to many health professionals



- Sec. 2: ANA-Vermont agrees with the intent to allow current GMCB members to continue to serve and not have the requirement to appoint a health care professional disrupt the current Board until a vacancy occurs.

As mentioned on the slides, not only nurses, but multiple other health professionals support a health professional on the GMCB. If there is any concern about finding a qualified professional, ANA-Vermont would be happy to offer the ANA-Vermont website to assist in your search.

Thank-you for your consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Meredith Roberts, RN PhD
ANA-VT Executive Director