



## Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

---

322 Industrial Lane  
Berlin, Vermont 05633-0206

(802) 828-1310  
[vtddc@vermont.gov](mailto:vtddc@vermont.gov)  
[www.ddc.vermont.gov](http://www.ddc.vermont.gov)

May 1, 2019

Chair William Lippert and Members, House Committee on Health Care  
Vermont State House  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Chairman Lippert and Committee Members,

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council (VTDDC) would like to express our support for recommendations outlined by the Vermont AIDS Services Organizations and colleagues, dated May 1, 2019.

As expressed in our comments of April 24, 2019, the Council continues to have serious reservations about the move from an opt-in to an opt-out system for the Vermont Health Information Exchange. However, given that policy appears to be moving in this direction, it is important to consider how the Legislature can provide some guardrails that protect and strengthen informed decision-making in this matter.

The AIDS Services Organizations have stressed the importance of requiring that the Green Mountain Care Board develop written materials for health care practitioners to provide to every patient at least once per year that clearly explain a patient's right to opt-out. We agree with this recommendation. We would add further that information should be in "plain language" and offered in alternative formats.

It is crucially important that all citizens, including those who have disabilities related to reading, cognition, or sensory differences, be well supported in making a choice whether to share their health information. We note with concern that the materials explaining patient consent currently available through VITL have not been adapted to support the understanding of people with developmental disabilities.

Thank for considering this recommendation as you move forward with your work on this important issue.

Yours Sincerely,  
*Kirsten Murphy*  
Kirsten Murphy

---