



To: Senate Committee on Government Operations
From: Jessa Barnard, Vermont Medical Society
Date: March 28, 2019
RE: Feedback on Draft 1.1, S. 111,
Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

Thank you for requesting feedback regarding Draft 1.1 of S. 111. Given the timing of the hearing this afternoon, VMS staff may be unable to testify in person, but we are pleased to provide written feedback to the Committee.

As stated in VMS' testimony in February, **the Vermont Medical Society supports S. 111 and efforts to address improving veterans' health.** Further, VMS is happy to collaborate with the Department of Health to disseminate information regarding the health impacts of exposure to burn pits to our 2000 physician and PA members via our electronic newsletter and website. That said, draft 1.1 of S. 111 now calls on the Department of Health "in cooperation with the Vermont Medical Society and other professional medical associations [to] ensure the dissemination of the information to all health care providers in Vermont." If the Committee is seeking to have information broadly distributed to all licensed health care providers in Vermont, VMS suggests that the Committee make the language more inclusive to the following:

"The Department of Health in cooperation with professional licensing boards and professional membership associations shall ensure the information is available to all licensed health care providers in Vermont."

This language both includes the important channel of professional licensing boards in the dissemination of information and does not limit the named professional membership association to the VMS, which only has physicians and PAs as members. VMS also suggests stating that the information shall be "made available" rather than "disseminated" to all health care providers as depending on the type of health care provider or location of practice, different methods of communication may be more appropriate (e.g. summarizing in a newsletter article vs mailing materials).

Thank you again for inviting feedback on the draft and VMS looks forward to working with the Committee in this process. If we are unavailable to have staff testify in-person, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions to me via email or phone at jbarnard@vtmd.org or 802-917-1460.