



March 1, 2019

To: Members of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee

From: the Vermont Medical Society & Vermont Health Care Stakeholders

Re: S.42, a bill requiring one member of Green Mountain Care Board to be a health care professional

Dear 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 S.42, a bill that would require at least one member of the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) to be a practicing or recently-practicing health care professional.

Currently, the state of Vermont is in the process of a implementing a comprehensive, multi-faceted transformation of our entire health care system and at the heart of this substantial reform is the Green Mountain Care Board. The Board is not only responsible for regulating the implementation of the ACO/All Payer Model and embarking on a completely new way of paying providers, one could argue it bears the liability for ensuring this new system is affordable, sustainable and delivers quality health care to all Vermont patients. The GMCB is also tasked with controlling state health care costs and is in charge of regulating hospital budgets, health insurance rate reviews, certificate of need and capital cost approvals and

reviewing any other health care policies that may impact the costs of health care in Vermont.

Each decision the GMCB makes stands to have considerable impact on every health care clinician 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 and where to attempt to reduce costs and where to invest. The Board benefitted from a physician member at its inception and most recently a primary care doctor and RN provided this critical clinical experience.

VMS Executive Director Jessa Barnard says, "That clinician perspective is unique, having a Board member who's been in the exam room and consistently managed patient care and knows 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 maintaining a viable health insurance market in the state. Please support the requirement of a health care professional on the GMCB by voting YES on S.42.

Sincerely,

Vermont Medical Society

American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter

Vermont Academy of Family Physicians

Physician Assistant Association of Vermont

Vermont Psychiatric Association

Bi-State Primary Care

VNAs of Vermont

Vermont Dental Society

Vermont Psychological Association

Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association

American Nurses Association Vermont

American Lung Association Vermont

Vermont Climate and Health Alliance