



To: Senate Committee on Government Operations
From: Jessa Barnard, Vermont Medical Society
Date: February 25, 2019
RE: S. 111, An Act Relating to the U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs'
Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

The Vermont Medical Society is the State's largest physician membership organization, representing approximately 2,000 physicians, physician assistants and medical students of all practice types and locations. **The Vermont Medical Society supports S. 111 and efforts to address improving veterans' health.** Further, VMS supports the finding of the bill that the State of Vermont and the U.S. government should prioritize the health of service members and veterans, including addressing any health impacts from exposure to burn pits.

Specifically, S. 111 calls on the Department of Health to disseminate information regarding symptoms associated with exposure to open burn pits and contact information for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry "to health care providers through the Vermont Medical Society and other medical professional associations." As you are aware, the Burn Pit Registry is a database of health information voluntarily provided by Veterans and Service members that will help VA to collect, analyze, and report on health conditions that may be related to environmental exposures experienced during deployment. VMS is happy to be a source of information for health care providers and can share information with our members on our website, electronic newsletter and other communications venues.

Again, thank you for the invitation to testify. We support all Vermont veterans being educated on the dangers of burn pits and being made aware of the registry – which will help the VA better study this issue and understand the impacts on veterans that were exposed to toxic materials.

I am happy to answer any questions.