

**From:** "Beebe-Woodard, Travis H." <[Travis.Beebe-Woodard@uvmhealth.org](mailto:Travis.Beebe-Woodard@uvmhealth.org)>  
**Date:** Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 12:52:03 PM  
**To:** "Jeanette White" <[JWhite@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:JWhite@leg.state.vt.us)>  
**Cc:** "Christopher Pearson" <[CPearson@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:CPearson@leg.state.vt.us)>, "Mari Cordes" <[MCordes@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:MCordes@leg.state.vt.us)>  
**Subject:** Concern regarding the public records act and vulnerable professions

Hi Jeanette,

I wanted to follow up on my message below. I remain concerned about the information that the OPR is required to provide at the direction of the Public Records Act and continue to ask for your assistance in protecting the vulnerable professionals of Vermont. I would welcome further discussion of this and possible solutions that balance the right of the public to information and the right of professionals to their privacy.

I look forward to your response and working together.

-Travis H. Beebe-Woodard

**From:** Beebe-Woodard, Travis H.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 7:04 PM  
**To:** [jwhite@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:jwhite@leg.state.vt.us)  
**Cc:** Christopher Pearson <[CPearson@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:CPearson@leg.state.vt.us)>  
**Subject:** Concern regarding the public records act and vulnerable professions

Hello Jeanette,

I hope this note finds you well and that your legislative session is off to a good start. I have been referred to you by Chris Pearson. I had reached out to him with a concern surrounding a change in the Office of Professional Regulations web based platform that I was recently made aware of. One of the functions that this platform allows is the public to search for license holders in the state. The new platform that is in use allows for license holders to have a profile, the default information contained in this profile is the license holders home address and phone number. When I learned of this I was concerned that the ease of access to this information increased the vulnerability of some, if not all,

professionals that are licensed by the OPR. I am a nurse and am all too familiar with the aggressive nature of healthcare and the need to protect myself at times from my patients. I believe that there are other professions in the state that are in the same situation.

Chris connected me with Lauren Hibbert (Director of the OPR) who was wonderful in explaining to me the platform change and what this means for license holders in VT. What I have learned is that the information that is discoverable via the new OPR platform has always been available, however in the past it has required more steps to obtain. The new platform allows license holders to edit the information that is contained in their profile, meaning that I can change the contact information for myself from my home to my practice site. Lauren also shared that the public records act is the legislative reason that this information is available and that this act was crafted in this manner to meet the needs of industry representatives that were interested in ease of access to groups of professionals.

While I believe that this new platform and the inclusion of the ability to edit the information that is discoverable about myself is a step in the right direction I do still have significant concern that there are vulnerable professionals in our state that are put at an increased risk due to this platform change. In addition to the professionals being at increased risk I believe that their families have also been put at risk due to the disclosure of home address and phone number by the OPR. I, like many of my colleagues, did not initially respond to the email sent from the OPR. This is of concern because I believe that there are a significant number of license holders that are unaware of this change. In fact I learned that this platform has been in use for some time and it was not until recently that Registered Nurses were informed of this change and thus unaware that their home contact information is available to the general public. At the same time I understand and believe in the right of the people that I care for to have access to who I am as a professional. There is a balance to be struck between the protection of myself and the right of the public to identify me.

I am writing tonight to ask for your help. I am seeking your help in protecting the vulnerable professionals in our state who I believe have been put at increased risk due to the change in the OPR web-based platform. I would like to discuss amending the public records act to guide the OPR to share practice location addresses & phone numbers for some, if not all, licensed professionals and not to share home contact information.

I would welcome further discussion about this issue as well as what the next steps might look like. Please feel free to contact me via phone (802-375-4033) or my email at this address.

Please know that I am writing tonight as a concerned citizen of Vermont and not as a representative of the institution I work for or the professional organizations that I am a member of.

I appreciate your time and look forward to hearing from you.

Travis H. Beebe-Woodard BSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, TCRN

Emergency Department

University of Vermont Medical Center

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