



ANA-Vermont
4 Carmichael Suite 111, #215
Essex, Vermont 05452

Senator Virginia Lyons
Chair Health and Welfare Committee
109 State St. Montpelier, VT.

Honorable Senator Virginia Lyons,

I am writing to you about H.607 An act relating to increasing the supply of nurses and primary care providers in Vermont. ANA-Vermont encourages and supports funding of our primary care workforce, but there is something missing in this bill.

ANA-Vermont supports funding of our primary care workforce, but the bill does not support education for advanced practice nurses, such as nurse practitioners (NPs) who function admirably in rural care settings. They have been proven to be effective, and are an important asset to rural communities. We appreciate the support given to nurses from practical nurses to registered nurses, and highly support the advisory group to include a nurse, to develop and maintain the strategic plan.

ANA-Vermont encourages support of all nurse, physician, and mental health providers who commit to practice primary care for at least five years in a rural, health professional shortage or medically underserved area, from RN's to nurse practitioners. It is understandable that funds are limited, but NP's should not be excluded. NP education is expensive, and residencies in rural communities would be beneficial to all. For example, psychiatric NPs might assist mental and physical well being.

Nurse practitioners are a vital part of our health workforce. ANA-VT supports family physician residency positions, with income tax credits for primary care providers. Yet, should not nurse practitioners and RN's also have the benefit of tax credits as they struggle to pay financial loans when there is a nursing shortage, just as dire as that of family physicians? Please consider equal financial support for advanced nursing practice as for medical students.

Thank-you for your time,

Meredith Roberts, RN PhD
ANA-VT Executive Director