



Vermont Psychological Association

March 10, 2022

To The Vermont House of Representatives Government Operations Committee:

RE: H.661

Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair and Representatives:

The Vermont Psychological Association (“VPA”) fully endorses the intent in the language in H. 661.

VPA has emphasized, and continues to emphasize, the importance and need for education and understanding around diversity, equity, and inclusion issues, and supports making those issues mandatory topics for continuing education for psychologists and other licensed mental health professionals.

The restrictions we all experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of video conferencing, and the subsequent adjustments to the format in which we present continuing education, have amply demonstrated that these courses can be effectively presented in an online format. (The Board of Psychological Examiners has explicit permission for electronic format continuing education in its administrative rules.) Online formats reduce travel needs and make current information more accessible to individuals who live in diverse areas. We believe that the online format for continuing education is a valuable tool and support the explicit addition of online formats as approved continuing education for psychologists and other mental health professionals.

Thank you for your help in passing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Barnett, Psy.D., M.S., LADC
VPA Legislative Committee Chair