

THE
University of Vermont
MEDICAL CENTER

January 18, 2022

The Honorable Ann Pugh, Chair
House Human Services Committee
Vermont House of Representatives

Dear Chair Pugh,

The University of Vermont Medical Center is committed to providing comprehensive, high quality health care services to the patients we serve. This includes reproductive health care, such as abortion.

At UVM Medical Center, decisions about reproductive health, including abortion, are the concern of the patient and their provider, as is the case with all other medical care. We support state laws, including a constitutional amendment, that protect reproductive rights. This includes the right to contraception, sterilization or safe legal abortion. We honor our diverse workplace, including the right of employees to request to opt out of participating in these procedures.

In light of the diverse beliefs that exist related to abortion and the complexity of related health care decisions, our institution has a careful process for ethical decision-making. Prior to viability, which we define operationally at 22 weeks of gestation, the provision of abortion is a private decision made between a patient and their physician. In rare cases at or above 22 weeks, we perform abortions after consideration and review with medical ethics and the Chief Medical Officer. In all cases, as with all other medical procedures, informed consent is provided after a discussion of the risks and benefits with the patient.

If you or your committee have any questions about this, please be in touch.

Sincerely,



Jason W. Williams
Network Director, Government and Community Relations