

From: Williams, Jason W. <Jason.Williams@uvmhealth.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Ann Cummings <ACUMMING@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Mark MacDonald <MMacDonald@leg.state.vt.us>; Christopher Pearson <CPearson@leg.state.vt.us>; Randy Brock <RBrock@leg.state.vt.us>; Michael Sirotkin <msirotkin@leg.state.vt.us>; Christopher Bray <CBray@leg.state.vt.us>; Ruth Hardy <RHardy@leg.state.vt.us>; Jessica Oski <oski@necrasongroup.com>; Adam Necrason <adam@necrasongroup.com>; Faith Brown <FBrown@leg.state.vt.us>; Brown, Emily <Emily.Brown@vermont.gov>
Subject: [External] Follow-up from today's hearing on S.247

[External]

Senator Cummings and the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for continuing to discuss S.247, an act relating to prohibiting discrimination based on genetic information, today. I appreciated the opportunity to be on the line for the discussion.

I want to express the UVM Health Network's support for the proposed clarification proposed by Emily Brown from the Department of Financial Regulation. It was not our intent in seeking this legislation to prohibit the use of family medical history documented in an individual's medical record in underwriting life, long term care or disability insurance. This history is expressed through the documentation of the known diagnoses of family members. A point worth reinforcing: S.247 does not in any way prohibit life insurers from conditioning their products on a diagnosis documented in a patient's medical record or on a patient's family medical history - two highly determinative considerations for underwriting. If the product of a genetic test is, in fact, a diagnosis, then it is permissible in determining issuance and rates. It is in the instances where a marker indicating the chance of manifested disease that we are seeking to prohibit discrimination in issuance or rates for insurance. Our goal is straightforward: it should be a matter of Vermont's public policy that Vermonters should not be deterred in knowing their genetic information, and then use that information to determine care plans to optimize their health.

Finally, several proposals have been floated over the course of your Committee's discussion of S.247, including a residency requirement and a potential threshold under which protections would exist. We are supportive of both of those concepts. We are not supportive of a prohibition simply focused on protections for people enrolling in research or clinical trials.

Sincerely, Jason

Jason W. Williams (*he, him, his*)
Network Director
Department of Government and Community Relations
(802) 363-6977

The University of Vermont Health Network
725 Community Drive, Suite 302

South Burlington, VT 05403

UVMHealth.org