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Vermont Board of Medical Practice  
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*Agency of Human Services*

April 10, 2024

Senator Ruth Hardy  
Chair, Government Operations Committee  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Re: Vermont Board of Medical Practice Input on H.606

Dear Senator Hardy:

Yesterday you asked me to get back to you with more information about the need of the Board of Medical Practice for Social Security Numbers (SSNs).

First, I want to correct what I said yesterday about the collection of SSNs from all applicants. In fact, it would be more accurate to say that we obtain either an SSN or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) from each applicant. The ITIN is a nine-digit number that is formatted in the same way as an SSN. ITINs are issued by the Internal Revenue Service to taxpayers who are not eligible to obtain an SSN.

The Board has no objection to being included in the scope of the amendments to law that would be made by H.606. We have been able to confirm that the agencies that rely on us to obtain and use SSNs allow the use of an ITIN as an alternative to an SSN. The agencies include the Vermont Tax Department, the Office of Child Support, and the National Practitioner Data Bank, which is a federal program within the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

H.606 will not impair the ability of the Board to carry out its duties, nor will it change anything about how applicants and licensees are treated. We do not ask any questions about citizenship or immigration status.

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the discussion about H.606.

Sincerely,

David K. Herlihy  
Executive Director

