

Letter Seeking Support for Advanced Practice Provider Provisions in H.75

February 26, 2025

Dear Healthcare Colleague and fellow Vermonter,

I am writing to ask for your signature in support of the specific provisions in House Bill 75 that would authorize physician assistants and nurse practitioners to prescribe medical aid in dying under Vermont's Patient Choice at End of Life Act.

Focus of This Support Letter

I want to clarify that this letter seeks support specifically for the sections of H.75 that pertain to physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

Rationale for Supporting Advanced Practice Provider Authorization

1. **Addressing Vermont's Rural Healthcare Needs:** Approximately 60% of Vermont is classified as rural, with over 180,000 Vermonters living in these areas. In many of these communities, physician assistants and nurse practitioners serve as essential primary care providers. Currently, some terminally ill patients must travel significant distances to access medical aid in dying services, creating an undue burden during an already difficult time.
2. **Vermont's Healthcare Workforce Challenges:** Vermont faces a significant physician shortage, with an aging physician workforce and difficulty recruiting to rural areas. PAs and NPs help fill these gaps in care, with many serving as the sole medical provider in certain communities. Authorizing these advanced practice providers to provide this service would leverage our existing healthcare workforce effectively.
3. **Alignment with Current Scope of Practice:** Vermont PAs and NPs already practice with a high degree of autonomy in providing complex care and prescribing medications across various specialties, including end-of-life care. This authorization would be consistent with their current scope and clinical expertise.
4. **Preserving Vermont's Robust Safeguards:** The provisions in H.75 regarding advanced practice providers would maintain all current safeguards in Vermont's Patient Choice at End of Life Act, ensuring that only eligible patients with terminal illness can access this option and that all procedural protections remain intact.
5. **Ensuring Equitable Access:** Since Vermont legalized medical aid in dying in 2013, access has been uneven across the state. Allowing qualified PAs and NPs to provide this service would help ensure that all Vermonters have equitable access to this legal end-of-life option, regardless of where they live.

I recognize that end-of-life care decisions are deeply personal and that each patient deserves compassionate care that respects their values and wishes. By expanding

authorization to qualified physician assistants and nurse practitioners, Vermont can ensure more equitable access to the full range of legal end-of-life options. I ask that you please consider supporting the provisions of H.75 related to physician assistants and nurse practitioners as an important step toward improving end-of-life care for all Vermonters.

Thank you for your consideration.

To sign on, please visit:

[Letter to Legislature](#)

Sincerely,

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