

Vermont Podiatric Medical Association

04/21/2025

To: Alyssa Black, Chair- House Committee on Healthcare

RE: Written Testimony for S126 “*Health care payment and delivery system reform*”

Representative Black,

On behalf of the Vermont Podiatric Medical Association (VPMA), we would like to submit this letter of written testimony with respect to S126, “Health care payment and delivery system reform.”

Podiatrists provide essential medical and surgical foot and ankle services to patients throughout the state of Vermont. This includes providing care in clinic, hospital and nursing home settings. We have a member who serves on the *Board of Medical Practice* and also multiple members who are on faculty at *UVM’s Larner College of Medicine*.

The current trend of increasing costs for healthcare in Vermont is not sustainable. Action is required. This action is required by all members of the health care delivery system. S126 sets clear and logical goals that align with looking to reign in costs, maintain quality care and ensure that the distribution of this care is equitable around the state.

As outlined in S126, there are a number of tools that can be used to control costs. Central to this are referenced based pricing or global payments. The VPMA is in support of these measures with the understanding that implementation preserves or improves access to quality care. Maintaining a delivery system that allows all providers the ability to best care for patients is critical. The VPMA understands the urgency of making changes in a timely fashion but asks the legislature to temper this urgency to ensure accurate implementation. The VPMA asks that the use of Medicare as a reference point be vetted carefully. Medicare payments to healthcare professionals have been problematic with decreasing reimbursement over a number of years. Consideration of linking the Medicare Economic Index (MEI) for inflation adjustment makes sense to ensure healthcare providers are able to consistently care for the Medicare population.

The Green Mountain Care Board (Health Resource Allocation Plan), Agency of Human Services (Office of Health Care Reform) and Hospital Systems will be central to creating a best healthcare delivery system. The “Statewide Health Care Delivery Plan” as referenced in S126 appears to be critical for the future of health care in Vermont. The VPMA wishes to contribute our input with regards to the future of healthcare delivery in the state of

Vermont. Specifically, we wish to ensure that all Vermonters have access to high quality and efficiently delivered foot and ankle care.

For more information on the podiatry profession and its current role in the healthcare system, please see attached brief power point presentation!

Sincerely,

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