

To: House Health Care Committee
From: Beth Anderson, President & CEO, VITL
Date: April 23, 2025
Re: S.126 An act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding S.126, an act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform. I am the President and CEO of VITL, the legislatively designated operator of Vermont's Health Information Exchange (VHIE). VITL's comments are specific to Section 10. 18 V.S.A. § 9353 Integration of Health Care Data.

VITL is supportive of the intents of this section. I'd like to specifically comment on three items:

- Regarding subsection (b)(4), VITL supports the integration of expanded types of health data to better inform care, including direct patient care, population health, public health, payment, and care coordination activities. We believe it is important to have clear goals and use cases defined to ensure the collected data is meaningful and useful. Piloting this with smaller data sets, such as is happening at the Department of Vermont Health Access is a valuable way to do this.
- Regarding subsection (d), VITL appreciates that the language added to ensure that data is used only for permitted uses remains in the draft. Different types of data coming from different sources will likely have different authorized uses – ensuring that those authorized uses are respected across the various places the data can be accessed will be critical to ensuring alignment with regulations and agreements, as well as to maintaining public trust.
- VITL encourages the reuse of existing infrastructure, resources and data sets wherever possible in delivering on the goals of this section. This will ensure efficient investment, minimize burden on the organizations sharing data (e.g. hospitals and practices), and help ensure the appropriate privacy and security of the data.

Thank you for considering this feedback on S.126. Please contact us at any time if you have questions at banderson@vitl.net.

About VITL

VITL is an independent, not-for-profit based in Vermont. VITL has a board of directors who represent much of the health care community in Vermont. The organization was created in 2005 to operate the State's Health Information Exchange. VITL engages with partners across Vermont to collect patient health data and then works to standardize, match, and transform that data to make it more usable and comparable, with the goal of creating a single health record for each Vermonter.

In addition to making the data more available to providers (e.g. doctors, nurses, pharmacists, emergency medical technicians, physical therapists) to inform patient care, VITL provides important health data to private and public payers, care coordinators, the Blueprint for Health, and various programs across the Vermont Department of Health