



Introduction

The Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (VAHHS) represents all 16 of Vermont's hospitals, all of which are non-profit. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.142, which sets out a pathway to licensure for internationally trained physicians and medical graduates. VAHHS supports this bill.

Health Care Workforce Shortage

The Chief Medical Officers recently informed me of their difficulty in recruiting specialists. This hits rural hospitals particularly hard because losing one specialist could mean losing a whole service line for the community.

Beyond the regular recruiting issues, the Chief Medical Officers noted that it is becoming increasingly difficult to hire in the specialty space because U.S. medical education is becoming more and more specialized. For instance, instead of a general oncologist, physicians now more often sub-specialize within a particular cancer. This is difficult for rural areas, because hyperspecialization is inefficient for less-populated communities.

Support for S.142

Casting a wider net to internationally trained physicians and medical graduates will not only open up the pool of prospective physicians, but may provide greater access to physicians with less specialized or rural experience that may better serve Vermont's needs.

VAHHS believes that supervisory infrastructure set out in S.142 will both support the physician and ensure quality care for the patient.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions to devon@vahhs.org.