



**S.28 – An act relating to access to certain legally protected health care services**  
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As our state's leading voice on domestic and sexual violence, the Vermont Network advocates for policies that seek to uproot the causes of violence and support the well-being of survivors, their families, and Vermont communities.

We are writing to express our support for provisions in S.28 that would allow patients to obtain a medication abortion prescription through asynchronous telehealth care via an adaptive questionnaire.

One often overlooked form of abuse is reproductive and sexual coercion. Behaviors intended to exert control over an intimate partner's reproductive health – including limiting contraception use, sexual violence, and forced pregnancy – are common. In these situations, accessing abortion care can be unsafe.

Asynchronous telehealth care will benefit victims of violence by allowing them to access the timely care they need, even when a confidential call or in-real-time chat with a provider is not safe. For these reasons, we support components of Sections 7 and 8 in S.28.