



H.545: An act relating to issuing immunization recommendations

Betsy Hassan, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, NPD-BC, FAAN, Past President, ANA-Vermont

Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for having me today and for your work on H.545. This work demonstrates your commitment to ensuring Vermonters have evidence-based recommendations and plans for immunizations.

On behalf of the American Nurses Association of Vermont, we support the intention of this legislation and know that it will support healthcare providers, patients and communities.

Respectfully, the American Nurses Associates seeks for amendment to the composition of the Immunization Advisory Council stated in Sec. 3 18 VSA §1131(b) Membership. For healthcare providers, only physicians and specifically pediatricians and family/internal medicine physicians are included on the Council. This section fails to recognize the valuable role that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Registered Nurses have in the immunization infrastructure and the values that the nursing paradigm promotes in holistically caring for our patients and families.

Nurses, for the 24th year in a row, have been named the most honest and ethical of professions¹. This is incredibly beneficial as nurses have a unique role that aids patients in making decisions about their care, and can provide accurate, non-coercive information to ensure patients are making informed decisions about immunizations². Including Advance Practice Registered Nurses and Registered Nurses on the Vermont Immunization Advisory Council will promote trust within our communities and provide the state immunization plan the benefit of nursing's knowledge and expertise.

For these reasons, the American Nurses Association of Vermont supports the proposed amendment to include nursing representation on the Vermont Immunization Advisory Council.

¹ [Nurses Continue to Lead in Honesty and Ethics Ratings](#)

² [American Nurses Association_ immunization-position-statement.pdf](#)