



Proposed Amendment to H.545
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On behalf of the Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association (VNPA), thank you for your work on H.545 and for your continued commitment to protecting the health of Vermonters.

VNPA supports the intent of this legislation. We are proposing amendment to Section 3 of H.545 to include *representation from Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and the Vermont Board of Nursing on the Vermont Immunization Advisory Council*

APRNs and registered nurses are integral to Vermont's immunization infrastructure. In many rural and underserved areas of the state, APRNs serve as the primary, and sometimes only, healthcare providers delivering immunizations. Across primary care, hospitals, schools, long-term care facilities, public health clinics, and community settings, nurses are the clinicians who most frequently counsel patients, administer vaccines, monitor safety and storage, manage immunization workflows, and respond to patient concerns and adverse events. Nurses are consistently recognized as the most trusted profession. That trust is particularly important at a time when vaccine confidence, access, and equity remain critical public health priorities.

Despite this central role, nursing is not currently represented on the Vermont Immunization Advisory Council. This omission creates a disconnect between immunization policy development and frontline clinical implementation. Including an APRN and Registered Nurse representation would strengthen the Council by incorporating the perspectives of clinicians who are directly responsible for vaccine delivery, patient education, and operational feasibility.

Nursing input is essential to ensuring that immunization recommendations are practical, evidence-based, and effectively communicated to patients, families, and communities. The proposed amendment simply ensures that immunization policy in Vermont is informed by the full range of clinical expertise involved in its execution.

For these reasons, the Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association respectfully urges the Committee to adopt the proposed amendment to H.545 to include nursing representation on the Vermont Immunization Advisory Council.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to submit this testimony.