

Memorandum

To: Senate Finance Committee
From: Vermont AIDS Services Organizations
Vermont CARES
AIDS Project of Southern Vermont
HIV/HCV Resource Center
Date: April 20, 2026
Re: H.585 Health insurance reform – Board composition

The Vermont AIDS Services Organizations provide HIV/AIDS and harm reduction services to Vermonters statewide. We partner with many healthcare, mental health, and substance use prevention organizations, with a focus on prevention, treatment, and support.

We join Planned Parenthood in opposing the introduction of political appointments to health insurer boards in H.585. Introducing political appointments to health insurer boards could lead to undue and overreaching political influence on the types of services provided.

As stated by Planned Parenthood in their testimony to your committee:

“Non-profit boards determine the organizations' priorities, hiring, resource allocation, and viewpoints or advocacy speech. Political appointees on a non-profit health care board could have a chilling effect on speech or advocacy.”

We urge you to remove the provision that would allow the Governor to appoint board members to health insurance boards from H.585.

Thank you.