



Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association  
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To: Senate Health & Welfare Committee  
From: Michelle Wade, President, Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association [Vermontnp@gmail.com](mailto:Vermontnp@gmail.com)  
Date: May 9, 2025

RE: H.237 – An act relating to prescribing by doctoral-level psychologists

On behalf of the Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association (VNPA), including Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNPs), we have concerns similar to those of VMS regarding the safety of psychiatric medications. These medications are some of the most dangerous of the legally prescribed medications for patients. There are multiple medication interactions with other maintenance medications, as well as medical/clinical conditions that can mimic a psychiatric illness.

Our concern is that all other organic medical situations need to be ruled out before Psychiatric medications are initiated or up-titrated, and all maintenance medications are considered for interactions, potency, and side effects. The current education for psychologists does not comprehensively include all of these conditions. We appreciate the safeguards currently in the bill; however, we are concerned that the return on investment indicated by increased access to this care will not be seen by utilizing this avenue.

Access to care remains a challenge, but other avenues will provide better and more statewide access to care for this patient population.

These include:

- Assuring funding for Blueprint / DULCE
- Rebirth of the PMHNP program at UVM, which would add more in-state education opportunities for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse training in the Mental Health field.

Over the years, we have proven that education in the State with financial support increases retention for in-state practitioners. Through the AHEC oversight of the Nurse Practitioner loan education funds, we are retaining providers in the state, and this is a proven pathway to continuing to build the provider base.

Thank you for taking the time to read this document.