

To: Chair Lyons and Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee

Re: Letter of Support for H.583

The undersigned organizations strongly support enacting state protections to prohibit the corporate practice of medicine (CPOM). CPOM is a long-established and widely supported doctrine in the field of medicine that goes back nearly a century that prevents non-physician-owned corporations from controlling medical decisions. The American Medical Association - and their ethics body - explicitly supports a prohibition on the corporate practice of medicine.¹ If passed, H.583 would do the following:

- Require health care entities to report whether they are owned by a private equity firm or hedge fund. This would provide important transparency on an issue that is of great interest and importance to patients, providers, and policymakers.
- Protect the ability of providers to treat patients as they see fit without interference from corporations, private equity firms or non-clinical executives.
- Create an enforcement mechanism for providers to seek damages if they were unfairly controlled or manipulated by a private equity firm or hedge fund.

We urge you to pass H.583 as passed by the House to protect Vermont patients and providers.

Signed,

Dr. Nancy Kane, Professor of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health

Dr. John E. McDonough, DrPH, MPA, Professor of Practice, Harvard School of Public Health

Dr. Elliott S. Fisher, Professor of Health Policy, Dartmouth College

Dr. Betty J. Keller, MD, President, Vermont Physicians for a National Health Program²

Dr. David Schneider, DO, MS-HCT, FAAP, Vermont pediatric physician and advocate

Dr. Rob Davidson, MD, Executive Director, Committee to Protect Health Care³

Dr. Marco Fernandez, MD, President, Association for Independent Medicine⁴

Dr. Ryan M. Mascio, DO, FAAP, President, Delaware County Medical Society (Pennsylvania)

Dr. Anna McCloy, MD, FAAP Community Health Pediatrics, Rutland, VT

Olivia Sharrow, MPH, Executive Director, Vermont's Free & Referral Clinics

Don Tinney, President, Vermont-National Education Association

Johnna Ferguson, President, League of Women Voters of Vermont

United States of Care⁵

¹American Medical Association, Council on Ethical & Judicial Affairs: "[11.2.3 Contracts to Deliver Health Care Services.](#)"

² Represents over 25,000 members across the country and about 200 health care providers in Vermont.

³ Represents 36,000 physicians across the country.

⁴ Represents over 2,000 physicians across the country.

⁵ United States of Care is a national non-partisan, non-profit health policy organization: <https://unitedstatesofcare.org/>