



Introduction

The Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (VAHHS) represents all 16 of Vermont's hospitals, all of which are non-profit. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.142, which sets out a pathway to licensure for internationally trained physicians and medical graduates. VAHHS supports this bill.

Health Care Workforce Shortage

Everyone in this room is familiar with the primary care workforce shortage, but when I recently met with the Chief Medical Officers, I heard a lot about their struggles to hire specialists. This difficulty in recruiting specialists hits rural hospitals particularly hard where losing one specialist could mean losing a whole service line for the community. The Chief Medical Officers noted that it is becoming more and more difficult to hire in the specialty space because each area is increasingly more specialized—instead of a general oncologists, physicians are only specializing in certain types of cancers. This is difficult for rural areas, because we can only afford a few specialists to meet the needs of our smaller communities.

Support for S.142

Casting a wider net to internationally trained physicians and medical graduates will not only open up the pool of prospective physicians, but may provide access to more physicians with rural experience that may better serve Vermont's needs. VAHHS believes that supervisory infrastructure set out in S.142 will both support the physician and ensure quality care for the patient.

VAHHS appreciates the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to reach out with any questions to devon@vahhs.org.