



University of Vermont

Larner College of Medicine

Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and
Reproductive Sciences

111 Colchester Avenue, UVMHC
Burlington, Vermont 05405-0088

Telephone (802) 656-2272

Fax (802) 656-8771

26 January 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of bill S.163, a bill aimed at enhancing healthcare delivery and patient outcomes throughout Vermont. As the Professor and Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont, I believe these changes are essential for our healthcare system.

Enhanced Patient Access

The core of S.163 is to explicitly recognize the vital role of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) in hospital care. By acknowledging APRNs to be the professional responsible for a patient's hospital care, the bill codifies what is already happening in the clinical setting (pp. 1, 5). This directly improves patient access to leadership-level care, potentially reducing wait times and ensuring more immediate attention across various hospital settings.

Improved Care Coordination

This legislation facilitates superior care coordination by modernizing patient rights and hospital regulations. The bill updates the "Bill of Rights for Hospital Patients" to ensure every patient has an attending physician or APRN responsible for coordinating their care (p. 2). Patients also gain the explicit right to know the name and professional status of the practitioner primarily responsible for them, whether a physician or APRN, and receive information necessary for informed consent from either professional (pp. 3-4). Furthermore, formalizing the APRN's role, including the ability to sign professional case records, streamlines administrative processes and ensures seamless communication within the care team (p. 6). Physician consultation and support will remain available to attending APRNs at all times, ensuring a collaborative environment (p. 2).

These thoughtful amendments ensure the healthcare system functions more efficiently and effectively, ultimately benefiting patients by formalizing the high-quality care APRNs already provide. I trust you will give this bill careful consideration and will approve so we can advance the care of all Vermonters.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey F. Peipert, MD, PhD
Professor & Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont