

February 11, 2025

Re: HCA Support for S.28

Dear Chair Lyons and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare:

We support the passage of S.28 – an Act relating to access to certain legally protected health care services. We believe this bill helps protect Vermonters from misleading advertising of health care services.

Additionally, this bill clarifies that an adaptive questionnaire may be used by certain types of medical providers to gather necessary medical information to prescribe abortion medication. This clarification will increase access for Vermonters seeking safe abortion services and is aligned with the intent of 18 V.S.A. Chapter 223, which states:

"The State of Vermont recognizes the fundamental right of every individual who becomes pregnant to choose to carry a pregnancy to term, to give birth to a child, or to have an abortion" (18 V.S.A. § 9493(b)).

For these reasons, the Office of the Health Care Advocate (HCA) urges you to pass S.28.

Sincerely, s\ Mike Fisher, Chief Health Care Advocate