



H.607 - Increasing the supply of nurses and primary care providers in Vermont
Dr. Joshua Green, ND
September 9, 2020

Dear esteemed legislators,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.607. I am testifying as the President of the Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians. Our association of roughly 55 Naturopathic Physicians, all of which except one are independent physicians, over 80% of whom are primary care providers, estimates that we conservatively serve over 15,000 Vermonters, and as the 4th largest naturopathic clinic in the state, my clinic estimates that we conservatively serve over 4,000 Vermonters. All of us Naturopathic Physicians have been working diligently to ensure that Vermonters receive the care they need during this pandemic.

Upon review of H.607, We fully support the goals of H.607. Even before this pandemic hit, it became clear that there was a need to increase the supply of nurses and primary care providers in Vermont.

We believe the bill can be strengthened with the inclusion of naturopathic physicians. We suggest the following amendments:

Advisory Group.

Naturopathic physicians will bring valuable input to the Health Care Workforce Strategic Plan. Therefore, we ask that you add an eight member to the group in Section 1:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 9491 HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE; STRATEGIC PLAN
(b)(1)(XXX) one representative of naturopathic physicians

Naturopathic Physician Students

Sections 3, 4, and 5a address scholarship incentives for medical students. Because naturopathic students will ultimately become naturopathic physicians, many of whom will serve the primary care needs of Vermonters, we would ask that you add “and naturopathic physician students” following references to “medical students”.

Thank you for considering our requests. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.