

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 22, 2020
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Health Care Leaders: LGBTQ Discrimination has no place in Vermont

As leaders in Vermont's health care system, we are committed to providing care and services without discrimination, regardless of who you are and who you love. Vermont's hospitals, providers, health care professionals, and insurers will not change our practices based on new federal guidance that attempts to strip protections from lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people.

Every LGBTQ Vermonter must be able to access health care without fear of discrimination. Vermont law protects LGBTQ people from discrimination in health care today, and Vermont's health care community stands united against this discrimination.

Along with our continued commitment to provide care and services without discrimination, we recommit to improving the ways we serve the LGBTQ community.

If you do experience health care discrimination or other issues accessing care, you have resources:

- You can contact the Pride Center of Vermont's SafeSpace Anti-Violence Program during office hours at 802-863-0003 or by emailing safespace@pridecentervt.org. The SafeSpace Anti-Violence Program's mission is to end violence and discrimination in the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected (LGBTQ+) people in Vermont.
- You can contact the Department of Financial Regulation by phone at 833-DFR-HOTLINE or by email at dfr.insuranceinfo@vermont.gov. DFR is committed to ensuring Vermonters, especially those in marginalized and vulnerable communities, have access to medically necessary care.
- You can contact the Health Care Advocate HelpLine by phone at 800-917-778 or by email at HCA@vtlegalaid.org. The Office of the Health Care Advocate is a free resource available to help everyone in Vermont solve problems related to health care, including health insurance and health care access.

Signed,

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont

Karen Peterson | Executive Director
apsv@sover.net | 802-254-8263

Bi-State Primary Care Association

Georgia Maheras | VP Policy & Strategy

gmaheras@bistatepca.org | 857-234-5171

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont

Sara Teachout | Director of Government and Media Relations
teachouts@bcbsvt.com | 802-371-3254

Department of Financial Regulation

Michael S. Pieciak | Commissioner
Michael.Pieciak@Vermont.Gov | 802-828-2380

HealthFirst Independent Practice Association

Susan Ridzon | Executive Director
contact@vermonthealthfirst.org, 802-878-8811

HIV/HCV Resource Center

Laura Byrne | Executive Director

Office of the Health Care Advocate

Mike Fisher | Chief Health Care Advocate
mfisher@vtlegalaid.org | 800-917-7787

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

Lucy Leriche | VP Vermont Public Affairs, PPNNE
Lucy.Leriche@ppnne.org | 802-598-4182

Recovery House, Inc.

Chadd Viger | CEO

The University of Vermont Medical Center

Stephen Leffler, MD | President & Chief Operating Officer
Stephen.Leffler@uvmhealth.org

Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems

Jeff Tieman | President and Chief Executive Officer
Jocelyn@VAHHS.org | 802-355-0915

Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians

Dr Joshua Green | President
DrJoshuaDGreen@Gmail.com

Vermont Care Partners

Julie Tessler | Co-Executive Director
julie@vermontcarepartners.org | 802-279-0464

Vermont CARES

Peter Jacobsen | Executive Director

peter@vtcares.org | 802-863-2437

Vermont's Free & Referral Clinics

Steven Maier | Executive Director
director@vtfreeclinics.org | 802-448-4280

Vermont Long-Term Care Ombudsman Project

Sean Londergan | State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
slondergan@vtlegalaid.org | 802-383-2227

Vermont Medical Society

Jessa Barnard | Executive Director
jbarnard@vtmd.org

Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care, Inc.

Catherine E. Fulton | Executive Director
catherinef@vpqhc.org | 802-229-2449

VNAs of Vermont

Jill Mazza Olson | Executive Director
jill@vnavt.org | 802-249-8491