H.545 An act relating to issuing immunization recommendations
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On behalf of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and the Vermont chapter of the American Nurses Association, thank you for your work on H.545 and for your continued commitment to protecting the health of Vermonters. We support H.545 as passed by the House, which includes an APRN on the Council, as well as a representative from the Board of Nursing.

APRNs and registered nurses are integral to Vermont's immunization infrastructure. In many rural and underserved areas of the state, APRNs serve as the primary, and sometimes only, healthcare providers delivering immunizations. Across primary care, hospitals, schools, long-term care facilities, public health clinics, and community settings, nurses are the clinicians who most frequently counsel patients, administer vaccines, monitor safety and storage, manage immunization workflows, and respond to patient concerns and adverse events. Nurses are consistently recognized as the most trusted profession. That trust is particularly important at a time when vaccine confidence, access, and equity remain critical public health priorities.

Despite this central role, nursing is not currently represented on the Vermont Immunization Advisory Council. This omission creates a disconnect between immunization policy development and frontline clinical implementation. Including APRN representation, as the House did – and as we further propose in this amendment - would strengthen the Council by incorporating the perspectives of clinicians who are directly responsible for vaccine delivery, patient education, and operational feasibility

Nursing input is essential to ensuring that immunization recommendations are practical, evidence-based, and effectively communicated to patients, families, and communities. The proposed amendment simply ensures that immunization policy in Vermont is informed by the full range of clinical expertise involved in its execution.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to support the House-passed version of H.545.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to submit this testimony.