



The Vermont Medical Society

Healthcare in Crisis: Steps to Ensure the Survival of Medicine in Vermont



Vermont
Medical
Society

JANUARY 18TH, 2023 - MONTPELIER, VT

VMS Advocacy Day

2-6PM Montpelier

2023 Advocacy Day Logistics & Priorities



2023 Advocacy Day Agenda

- **2-3pm: Advocacy Know-How:** - 4th floor of the Pavilion Building. Please bring your ID to show to security for access. Learn more about the 2023 VMS Policy Priorities and how to engage your lawmakers on these topics
- **3-4pm: Observe Statehouse Committee Work:** Meet at the Statehouse Cafeteria. Observe Legislative Committees at work discussing issues relevant to your practice and patients
- **4-6pm: Legislative Reception in Statehouse Cafeteria:** Invite your lawmakers to attend our reception "Health Care Crisis: Steps to Ensure the Survival of Medicine in Vermont"

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Have Questions? Call or Text Us:

- **Jill:** 802.917.5817
- **Jessa:** 802-917-1460
- **Stephanie:** 802-249-7487

LOGISTICS

Parking Options:

- On-street parking – 2-hr parking in spaces around the Statehouse for \$1 per hr. Download the Parkmobile app to avoid parking tickets
- Capitol City Parking Lots – long-term parking behind the Capitol Plaza Hotel for \$0.75 per hr.
- Vermont Department of Labor - Free parking is offered at the lot at the Vermont Department of Labor (5 Green Mountain Drive). You can park and walk to the Statehouse via the bike path.



ParkMobile®

Where am I going?

- Google Directions to the Pavilion Building – walk in the side door on the Gov. Davis Ave side of the building. Bring your license or other ID and security will give you a badge to go to the 4th floor office. **We will meet here at 2pm.**
- Google Directions to the Statehouse – no ID necessary and you don't have to go through a scanner. The cafeteria is on the 2nd floor, go to room N on the map. **We will meet here at 3pm and 4pm.**

Use the map to find the Cafeteria, Committee Rooms and the House and Senate Chambers.



VMS 2023 POLICY PRIORITIES

Increase Practice Sustainability

- Fund adequate Medicaid, private payer, and Blueprint investment in primary care
- Ensure pay parity for audio-only telehealth services
- Update the Worker's Compensation Fee Schedule

Reduce Administrative Burden

- Reduce/streamline the prior authorization approval process

Ensure Strong Workforce

- Provide ongoing funding for primary care scholarships, loan repayment, residency programs
- Reduce workplace violence against healthcare workers
- Meet statewide economic development needs like housing & childcare

Support Public Health

- Ensure adequate substance use prevention policies and funding
- Support legal protections for providers of reproductive health care services
- Increase pediatric and adult mental health care services

2023-24 LEGISLATURE

Structure

Governor Phil Scott - R

- **30 member Senate**
 - 22 Democrats
 - 7 Republicans
 - Progressive
- **150 member House**
 - 106 Democrats
 - 38 Republicans
 - 3 Progressives
 - 3 Independents
- 51 new House members
- 11 new Senators

Leadership

Senate

- Senate President/Lt. Gov: David Zuckerman (P/D)
- President Pro Tempore: Phil Baruth (D)
- Majority Leader: Alison Clarkson (D)
- Minority Leader: Randy Brock (R)

House

- House Speaker: Jill Krowinski (D)
- Majority Leader: Emily Long (D)
- Minority Leader: Patti McCoy(R).



2023-24 KEY COMMITTEES

Senate

- [Appropriations](#) – Chair Jane Kitchel, D-Caledonia
- [Finance](#) – Chair Ann Cummings, D-Washington
- [Government Operations](#) – Chair Ruth Hardy, D-Addison
- [Health and Welfare](#) – Chair Ginny Lyons, D-Chittenden Southeast
- [Judiciary](#) – Chair Dick Sears, D-Bennington

House

- [Appropriations](#) – Chair Diane Lanpher, D-Vergennes
- [Government Operations](#) – Chair Mike McCarthy, D- St. Albans
- [Health Care](#) – Chair Lori Houghton, D-Essex Jct.
- [Human Services](#) – Chair Theresa Wood, D-Waterbury
- [Ways and Means](#) – Chair Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro



BECOME A VMS HEALTH ADVOCATE

Contact Your Legislator!

- Get to know your local legislator before you have a policy “ask” – introduce yourself and offer to be a resource on health and health policy issues. Find Your Legislator.
- Attend VMS Legislator Meet & Greets and the annual VMS Advocacy Day
- Invite legislators to speak at organizational meetings or with medical groups

Take Action on Legislation!

- Track a bill
- Participate in VMS Advocacy Alerts via the VMS Rounds Newsletter & VMS Legislative Bulletin
- Contact your legislator and/or members of key legislative committees following the bill to express your opinion.
- You can reach legislators by emailing them, calling their home phone, or by leaving a message at the Statehouse by calling (802) 828-2228.
- Write a letter to the editor of your hometown newspaper.
- Inform VMS of your willingness to testify before legislative and policy committees or to visit the statehouse to lobby lawmakers in person.



2023-24 LEGISLATION

What we know



Gun Violence Prevention Package

- 72-hr waiting period
- Ban on under 21 possessing semiautomatic weapons



Childcare Funding

- Comprehensive system
- Potential Payroll Tax



Cannabis Regulation

- Remove potency limits
- Remove 92% tax on cannabis vapes
- Door to door sales



Provider "Shield" Law

- Protect providers who perform abortion services from extradition
- Protect providers who perform gender-affirming care from extradition



Forensic Mental Health Facility

- Physical site
- Competency Restoration



Flavored Tobacco Ban

- Bans all flavored tobacco products, including vapes
- Ban includes menthol products



Workplace Violence Bill

- Warrantless arrest for violence in a health care setting

***FRAME* Your Message:**

Start by Framing Your Message*

People, Pocketbooks, and Principles: In the current circumstance, what does your audience care most about? Which frame aligns your message with their values?

A framing statement can often be crafted by completing one of the following sentences with your audience in mind: "We can all agree that..." or "We all benefit when..."

For example: We all benefit when our youth are as healthy as possible."



CRAFT Your Message:

These questions can help define your message:

Problem: What is the problem today?

For example: Youth are addicted to nicotine via vapes.

Solution: What is the solution/the proposed fix? Provide a personal story or experience to better illustrate why your solution is critically necessary to address the problem. For example: By passing the flavor ban, youth will not start using these highly-addictive products.

Action: What is your ask or call-to-action?

For example: Pass the bill prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products including menthol.





Thank you!
VMS Policy Staff:
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vtmd.org

