

Dear Representative Sheldon,

I write as a 50-plus year resident of South Burlington whose 40-plus year career in direct services, teaching, consulting, administration, and management focused on putting in place programs or services that support lesser advantaged Vermonters in achieving their goals. This included one year as Reach Up program director and nine years as deputy commission of the Department of Social Welfare (now the Department for Families and Children).

Likely the largest lesson learned during my work life was that safe, secure (meaning long-term if not permanent), and affordable housing was the single most important component of a family's life; it is the foundation on which everything else is built. I believe this is true for Vermont as a community. Providing safe, secure, and affordable housing for all of our residents is the most powerful springboard to achieving a dynamic economy and vibrant quality of life. If we as a people want to thrive, we must address our unprecedented housing crisis.

Thus, I write asking you to vote "yes" on S.100 in your committee and when (I hope) it is voted on by the full House of Representatives. I have read the testimony of South Burlington's City Council chair and director of planning and zoning. I do not support their requests for modifications to S.100 and ask you not to amend it as they have requested. The rationale behind my non-support of their proposals is contained in a recent commentary I wrote for *VT Digger*. The link is below.

https://vtdigger.org/2023/04/21/sandy-doolley-s-100-offers-reasoned-fair-action-to-address-our-housing-crisis/?u=2a52d04cf2&utm_source=VTDigger+Subscribers+and+Donors&utm_campaign=d65cd5617f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_04_22_01_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dc3c5486db-d65cd5617f-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D

In addition to my work with low income Vermonters, I was a South Burlington City Councilor for six years; including service as council chair, and have served on every housing-related task force or committee that the City has established. I was also a member of Champlain Housing Trust's board of directors for nine years.

Thank you for your service as a member of our House of Representatives and all you do to make Vermont a better place for all.

Best regards,

Sandra (Sandy) Dooley
South Burlington, Vermont