

The Vermont Association of Mental Health and Addiction Recovery supports HHC - 1.23 and is pleased to work with the Peer Workforce Development Initiative partners, DMH, VDH, the Office of Professional Regulation, the Attorney General's Office lawmakers, and other partners to refine and implement it. We see this bill and the subsequent rule making processes as integral steps along the way of ensuring Vermont maintains, diversifies, and expands, a high quality certified Mental Health Peer Support and Recovery Coaching workforce. We look forward to working with the aforementioned partners to also ensure the Vermonters doing this transformative and life-saving work receive livable wages, adequate benefits, and professional development opportunities and ongoing support; and the organizations employing them are adequately resourced to ensure high calibre care for Vermonters who desire Mental Health Peer Support and Recovery Coaching. Thank you for your partnership and support as we work to collectively bolster these critical aspects of our system of care.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Eberle, Executive Director, Vermont Association of Mental Health and
Addiction Recovery