



To: Senate Education Committee
From: Sue Ceglowski, Executive Director, Vermont School Boards Association
Jeffrey Francis, Executive Director, Vermont Superintendents Association
Jay Nichols, Executive Director, Vermont Principals Association
Re: Testimony on the 2023 Draft School Safety Bill
Date: February 9, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of our respective organizations regarding the draft school safety bill. Our Associations support updating statutory requirements in order to address the important matter of improving the safety and security of Vermont's schools.

Our preparation for this testimony included reviewing the proposal that was put forward by the Administration; discussing the proposal with members of our respective Associations; conducting a meeting amongst ourselves, at which we included Vermont school safety liaison Rob Evans and two representatives to the Vermont School Safety Crisis Planning Team, and holding a follow up meeting with Rob Evans and Vermont Agency of Education General Counsel Emily Simmons.

Our principal purpose in those efforts was to develop a better understanding of the provisions of the proposed legislation provided to the Committee by the Administration and to make suggestions to the Committee based on those understandings.

We have submitted, along with this cover memo, a separate document that includes a mark-up of the Administration's proposal with suggestions for better clarity of the language in the proposal, offers suggestions for improving the bill, and presents some observations and questions about the language in the bill.

Beyond the feedback that we provide in that document, each of us may have some brief comments to make concerning the bill.

Thank you.