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Dear Representative Sweaney,

Greetings from the University of Vermont! I am writing as a faculty member of the University of Vermont, and as the MSW Program Coordinator, to request that the proposed legislation (H656) be tabled until to allow for a significantly broader and deeper discussion and consultation around the bill and the significant changes it will bring, to the social work landscape in the state. There has not been enough discussion and too many problems in the legislation remain.

Several of my colleagues on the faculty were able to attend and engage in discussion at some of the open meetings proposed by OPR. At one of these meetings advisors of the board and board members themselves were invited to attend a full faculty meeting with the faculty delivering the only masters level program in the state. The intent inherent in the invitation was a deeper discussion around the preparation of students at the masters level and the diverse fields of practice where they find employment and serve. The proposed legislation has sensitive and important ramifications as the new proposed license doesn't even cover all of the fields of practice current social workers already practice in.

There are such significant concerns that a waiting period of a year is warranted to adequately respond to the concerns raised and to take more testimony and input. There are inherent internal contradictions in the legislation proposed, particularly as it relates to the two licenses and their relation to one another as well as to their representation to OPR. Is it necessary, helpful, or just to differentiate licenses based on perceived skill levels that the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) the

accrediting body of all schools, does not? Clearly more discussion and input would be beneficial here.

Thank you for your leadership and your time,

Sincerely,

Susan A. Comerford, Ph.D.

MSW Program Coordinator

The University of Vermont