VERMONT CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

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Child First
Advocacy Center of
Rutland County

The Chittenden
Advocacy Center
at CUSI

The Child Advocacy
Center at The
Family Place/
Windsor County
Unit for Special
Investigations

Windham County
Safe Place
CAC/SUSI

Northwest Unit for
Special Investigations/
Child Advocacy Center

Bennington County
Child Advocacy Center and
Special Investigations Unit

OUR House of
Central Vermont

The Child Advocacy Center
at the Springfield Area
Parent Child Center

Caledonia Special
Investigations Unit, Inc.

The Orleans County
Child Advocacy Center

The Orange County
Special Investigations Unit

Addison County Unit
Special Investigations, Inc.

To: House Committee on Human Services

From: Jennifer Poehlmann, Esq.
Executive Director, Vermont Children's Alliance

RE: S.9 – Section 6

Date: April 2, 2015

1) Upon additional review of S.9, Section 6 we have the following recommendation:

Adding the crimes of Sexual Abuse of a Vulnerable Adult as defined under 33 V.S.A. §6902(1)D and Sexual Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult as defined under 33 V.S.A. §6902(6)D to list of crimes SIUs are mandated to investigate under Section 6 of S.9 as passed the Senate.

SIUs currently handle these cases and given that they are crimes currently located in Title 33 of Vermont Statutes we want to be sure to include them.

2) We also understand that there have been advocates for returning other crimes against vulnerable adults and crimes of domestic violence as cases the Units are responsible for.

We recommend the following language should the Committee make this policy choice:

Please amend to add 24 V.S.A. §1940(a)(3) "The provisions of this section shall not limit or restrict special investigative units from serving as a resource to assist with the investigation of cases of domestic violence or crimes against vulnerable adults not otherwise enumerated herein."

We appreciate the opportunity to provide further comment and for the time and consideration from your Committee.