



April 6, 2017

Dear Esteemed Members of the Vermont House:

I am writing to you from Newport, Vermont in the Northeast Kingdom. In my capacity as Community Outreach Specialist at North Country Hospital I have spent the last two years doing education and outreach as pertains to childhood injury prevention. I am also an active member of the Safe Kids Vermont coalition and am personally and professionally devoted to keeping all kids safe. Preventable injuries are the number one cause of childhood death in the United States. Every year 8,000 families lose a child because of a preventable injury. When a child dies or is severely injured, the lives of the families change forever.

During the past two years, North Country Hospital has collaborated with VASA, the Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association in providing required safety classes to youth riders. We are all committed to education and safe practices in the name of preventing childhood injuries (childhood being defined as birth to 19 years old).

House Bill 287 is common sense legislation that will save lives and prevent tragic lifelong debilitating injury. The direct and administrative cost to implement is minimal - especially when compared to the reduction in liability and significant health and safety benefits to Vermonters.

Thank you,

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