



**Testimony on H.718
House Committee on Corrections and Institutions
February 13, 2018**

**Auburn Watersong
Policy Director**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you again on H.718 which creates the Restorative Justice Study Committee for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive examination of whether there is a role for restorative justice principles and processes in domestic and sexual violence and stalking cases.

Committee membership and process:

It is necessary that all 19 members comprise the committee because they include the relevant parties that are *currently involved* - and those that *will be involved* should restorative justice become an option for domestic and sexual violence and stalking cases: prosecutors, defenders, courts, victim advocates, disproportionately affected populations, restorative justice experts, and restorative justice practitioners.

Upon the first meeting, the committee will choose co-chairs and establish their working process. The committee will form subcommittees to work on certain areas of concern. These committees will then report back to the larger group with any recommendations. The final recommendations will then be conveyed in a written report presented to the legislature.

Supporting H.718:

The Network is in strong support of a multidisciplinary review of current practice and policy, which is why we support H.718.

Please support H.718 so that Vermont can lead in truly shifting the culture of violence, and provide safety, hope, and healing in our homes and in our communities.