



Building Bright Futures

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Building Bright Futures

Input on Senate Bill No. 261

To: Chair, Representative Ann Pugh and Vice Chair, Sandy Haas

Dear Representative Pugh and Representative Haas,

Thank you both for your thoughtful attention of sound and sensible policy recommendations that support child and family resilience and address the experience of trauma toxic stress. Vermont is well positioned to take a whole state systems level approach to addressing trauma and toxic stress. Given the astonishing complexity of trauma and toxic stress in Vermont we must recognize that no single approach or group will solve this, our communities, and service delivery system must come together and work collectively on behalf of children and families in Vermont.

Building Bright Futures (BBF) is Vermont's early childhood public-private partnership established by law to monitor the state's early care, health and education systems and to advise the Administration and Legislature on policy and systems improvements. Act 104 is the Vermont statute that authorizes our role, and we have 16 duties and powers to ensure that we have an integrated and unified early, care, health and education system.

Both Sec.7 and 8 outline both training and evaluation activities related to child care providers. BBF is well positioned under Act 104 to be a partner in these efforts as we have articulated responsibilities related to; 1) working with Secretary of human services to ensure the coordination of existing budgets and polices that affect the care, health and education of young children, and 2) Convening members of the child care community, medical community, education community and other organizations, as well as state agencies serving young children, to ensure that families receive quality services in the most effective and cost-effective manner.

We would suggest that you include language to name Building Bright Futures as a partner to support both Sec. 7 Trauma Informed Training for Child Care Providers, and Sec.8 Child Care Evaluation.

Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sarah Squirrell
Executive Director

Building Bright Futures statewide network:

Addison Building Bright Futures, **Bennington** Building Bright Futures, **Caledonia and Southern Essex** Building Bright Futures, **Central Vermont** Building Bright Futures, **Chittenden** Building Bright Futures, **Franklin Grand Isle** Building Bright Futures, **Lamoille Valley** Building Bright Futures, **Northern Windsor and Orange** Building Bright Futures, **Orleans and Northern Essex** Building Bright Futures, **Rutland** Building Bright Futures, **Southeast Vermont** Building Bright Futures and **Springfield Area** Building Bright Futures