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To: Vermont Senate Government Operations Committee

Attention: Committee Chair Person, Hon. Senator White

From: Chief Robbie Blish, President VACOP

Subject: S. 26

Date: February 20, 2017

Honorable Committee Members,

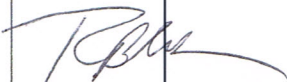
The purpose of this letter is to express the support of the bill, S. 26 by the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police. The VACOP believes it has important provisions in it that advances the professionalism of law enforcement in Vermont.

Among these are requiring that a supervisor cannot supervise someone above his/her certification level and requiring that an agency CEO be Level III certified. It, however, exempts those in their current position with their current agencies thereby protecting established careers and jobs.

This bill also helps to ensure that the best law enforcement trainers can be recruited and retained by the Police Academy by allowing certified academy employees to retain their certification and authority through their employment there, rather than having to have to keep it via being on another agency's roster and rolls these officers into Group C retirement, which is a better retirement group.

Thank you for your consideration on this important bill.

Respectfully,

  
Chief Robbie Blish,  
President, VACOP