



MEMO TO: Senator Ayer and Senate Health and Welfare Committee
DATE: April 19, 2017
RE: H.230 - OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR MINORS
FROM: Auburn Watersong, Policy Director

Dear Sen. Ayer and Committee Members,

The member programs of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence work with children and youth who live in homes where violence is used. These children and youth are also survivors of traumatic events, sometimes witnessed and sometimes experienced. Resultant anxiety and depression deserves the psychotherapy and support that is needed for children and youth to heal from the household stress. H.230 ensures that these minors are fully able to confidentially access help and support. We support every option that provides children and youth the opportunity for healing and wholeness. We affirm the importance of supporting youth who reach out for help. We believe that allowing youth who advocate for themselves to independently access their own mental health assistance is empowering a practice of self-care that will stand them well in future challenges.

The Network asks that you support the passage of H.230 which is currently up for consideration in the full Senate.

Thank you,
Auburn Watersong