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TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO: Senate Judiciary Committee
FROM: Dr. Amy Fowler, Deputy Agency of Education
TOPIC: [H. 675](#)
DATE: April 3, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to review H 675. The Agency of Education submits the following for the committee's consideration.

Subchapter 2: Extreme Risk Protection Orders

The AOE has no objection to this language.

While the bill does not call for an advisory board, we believe that school staff, particularly principals, superintendents and school resource officers, would benefit from training and protocols to support efficient filing of petitions before the court. The AOE would welcome an opportunity to assist in gathering appropriate individuals to serve on an advisory committee to develop this technical assistance.

§ 4004. POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS OR DEADLY WEAPON IN A SCHOOL BUS OR SCHOOL BUILDING OR ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

The AOE has no objection to the modifications of this language.

Our sole question to the committee is whether the committee has a specific notion regarding the definition of "school." While the use of this term is in current statute and likely well understood by all, this may be the time to be more precise in what locations are covered by that term. In Vermont, we have a number of educational institutions including public schools, independent schools, CTE centers, private and public preK providers, tutorial programs, universities and colleges. Depending on the committee's intention, "school" may be an insufficient term to capture the locations where educational services are provided to students and weapons should be prohibited. When we are using a more generic term in Title 16, we use "educational institutions" to capture the multiple settings or reference the definitions used in [16 V.S.A. § 11](#).