

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred House Bill
3 No. 57 entitled “An act relating to preserving the right to abortion” respectfully
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the Senate
5 propose to the House that the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 1 (legislative
6 intent) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

8 Currently Vermont does not impose legal restrictions on the right to
9 abortion. Health care practitioners providing abortion care in Vermont make
10 determinations regarding the provision of safe and legal abortion within the
11 scope of their practice and license, and in accordance with the relevant
12 standards of medical practice and guiding ethical principles. The General
13 Assembly intends this act to safeguard these existing rights to access
14 reproductive health services in Vermont by ensuring those rights are not
15 denied, restricted, or infringed by a governmental entity. Nothing about this
16 act shall be construed to undermine the supreme legislative power exercised by
17 the Senate and House of Representatives in accordance with Chapter II,
18 Section 2 of the Vermont Constitution or the judicial power vested in
19 Vermont’s unified judicial system in accordance with Chapter II, Section 4 of
20 the Vermont Constitution, or to contravene 18 U.S.C. § 1531.

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1 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE