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April 8, 2019

Hon. Alice Emmons, Chair
House Committee on Corrections and Institutions
Via email to: DBean@leg.state.vt.us

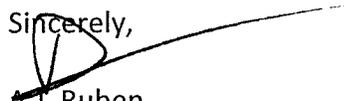
Re: DRVT Testimony on S. 112

Dear Chairwoman Emmons and Committee members,

DRVT, Vermont's federally-authorized Protection and Advocacy System and Vermont's Mental Health Ombudsman, appreciates the opportunity to comment on S. 112, an Act Relating to Good Time in Corrections. DRVT does considerable outreach and advocacy in Vermont's correctional system and agrees with that there is a need and a benefit to have more opportunities for prisoners to earn faster release when appropriate. S. 112 as currently drafted will go a long way to helping reduce the prison population, incentivize prisoners to make the most use of their rehabilitative opportunities within Corrections, and limit both unnecessary suffering on the part of prisoners and unnecessary expenses from our General Fund. Efforts to make the calculations of good time as simple and clear as possible should be made to avoid the problems of litigation and administrative appeals that did occur in the past when the system to calculate good time credits was overly complicated. Member of the Defender General's Office that work on prisoner rights issues will likely be in the best position to advise the Committee on how to draft the final language to avoid unnecessary confusion and litigation around good time credits.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment on S. 112, DRVT is available to provide additional information to the Committee as requested.

Sincerely,



A.J. Ruben
Supervising Attorney

DRVT is the protection and advocacy system for the State of Vermont.

On the web: www.disabilityrightsvt.org