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To: House Committee on General, Housing & Military Affairs
From: Sue Ceglowski, Executive Director
Re: S.254
Date: September 16, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.254. My name is Sue Ceglowski and I am the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA).

The VSBA provided testimony to the Senate Economic Development Committee on S.254 which did not change their course of action on the bill. I am providing you with the same information and hope that you will take it under consideration. VSBA opposes passage of S.254 for the following reasons:

1. The existing VLRB process for dealing with representation petitions has been fair for both Petitioner and Respondent. Through the process employed first by its Executive Director and then (if necessary) by the Board, all frivolous objections and then all serious objections are resolved in a timely manner before the election is held. The VSBA sees no compelling reason to change the existing VLRB process.
2. The timelines in S.254 as passed by the Senate (2 days, 4 days, 8 days) are unworkable for entities such as school districts and their elected, volunteer school board members to discharge their duties in a responsible manner through information gathering and opportunity for careful consideration before positions are taken.
3. The new requirement that questions as to whether a particular individual or position should be included in the proposed bargaining unit be deferred until after the representation election (with a separate voting procedure for those contested) is both unnecessary and disorderly in contrast to the existing VLRB procedure.
4. S.254's limitations with regard to briefing matters are unnecessary. The VLRB currently manages the submission of memorandums and legal briefs in an even handed and professional manner for all litigants.