TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred House Bill No. 57 entitled “An act relating to preserving the right to abortion” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 1 (Legislative Intent) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

Currently Vermont does not restrict the right to abortion. The General Assembly intends this act to safeguard the existing rights to access reproductive health services in Vermont by ensuring those rights are not denied, restricted, or infringed by a governmental entity. Nothing about this act shall be construed to undermine the supreme legislative power exercised by the Senate and House of Representatives in accordance with Chapter II, Section 2 of the Vermont constitution or the judicial power vested in Vermont’s unified judicial system in accordance with Chapter II, Section 4 of the Vermont constitution, or to contravene 18 U.S.C. § 1531.

Second: In Sec. 2, 18 V.S.A. Chapter 223 (Reproductive Rights), by striking out § 9493 (Individual Reproductive Rights) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

§ 9493. PURPOSE AND POLICY
(a) The State of Vermont recognizes the fundamental right of every individual to choose or refuse contraception or sterilization.

(b) The State of Vermont recognizes the fundamental right of every individual who becomes pregnant to choose to carry a pregnancy to term, to give birth to a child, or to have an abortion.

(Committee vote: ___________)

_______________________
Representative __________

FOR THE COMMITTEE