



H. 7 - Senate Judiciary Committee: An Act Relating to Second Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault

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Thank you for your invitation to testify on H. 7. This is an important piece of legislation which permits an out-of-state domestic assault conviction to qualify as a prior conviction for purposes of a second degree aggravated domestic assault prosecution in Vermont. The Vermont Network supports this legislation as written.

Domestic violence rarely occurs as one isolated incident. Usually, domestic violence presents as a long-term course of conduct wherein an individual seeks to coerce, control and abuse their partner over a period of years. It is not uncommon for people who use abuse in their relationships to abuse multiple partners in different relationships over a series of years. For this reason, it is especially important that prior convictions can be used in prosecutions for domestic violence.

It is imperative that Vermont State's Attorneys have the tools they need to support victim safety. Ensuring that crimes committed elsewhere matter in Vermont is vital to that work.