

January 19, 2021

Rep. Marcotte
Chair, House Commerce Committee
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Chair Marcotte and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Working Vermont, a coalition representing over 25,000 public and private sector labor union members in Vermont, I wanted to express our strong support for S.9. This bill reflects lots of good work started last year and is the product of carefully crafted compromise between the House and Senate. The bill is an essential safeguard for workers, particularly frontline workers, that continue to diligently keep Vermonters healthy, fed, safe and secure. Despite claims from the insurance industry and others that the sky would fall if this bill were passed last year, that did not come to pass. What this bill does is provide peace of mind to workers and their families that if they become sick through their employment they would have a fair opportunity to establish a claim and have their medical and financial needs met through the workers' compensation system. Such peace of mind is the least we can do for those that continue to work in difficult positions through these challenging times. We appreciate your consideration of this bill and encourage your continued support. We look forward to working with you on this issue and other important issues impacting workers in Vermont.

Sincerely,
David Mickenberg

Working Vermont
Vermont State Employees' Association
Vermont-NEA
Vermont Troopers Association
AFT Vermont
Professional Firefighters of Vermont