

VSBA, VSBIT, VSA, and VPA Written Testimony Regarding H.329 “Draft No. 4.3”

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House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs—April 5, 2022

The above referenced organizations (“Member Organizations”) submit this written testimony in order to provide the Committee with their position *regarding Draft No. 4.3. (3/30/22 10:41 a.m. Damien Leonard) of H.329.*

Draft 4.3 is acceptable to the Member Organizations and would sufficiently address the concerns raised in prior written testimony submitted regarding H.329. Draft. No. 4.3¹ expressly limits H.329’s proposed changes to the terms “discriminate” and “harass/harassment” by placing them solely within the text of the Unfair Housing Practices (9 V.S.A. §4503) section of the Act, thereby excluding schools (and other places of public accommodation) from the scope and reach of those changes. Accordingly, the concerns previously expressed² by the Member Organizations are in their view adequately addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this written update.

¹ A prior version of the bill, No. 4.1. (3/23/22, 11.19 a.m. Damien Leonard) had additionally included language (page 8 lines 9-11) stating the amendments made to that section by the H.329 should additionally not be read to impact or apply to any other places of public accommodations. Should that language be reintroduced or reconsidered, the Member organizations would request that the Committee refer back to the written testimony submitted by them on March 30, 2022.

² The member organizations take no position regarding the bill’s proposed amendments to the “LEGISLATIVE INTENT” section of the VPAA (9 V.S.A. §4500).