



Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

100 State Street, Suite 342
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-0206

(802) 828-1310
vtddc@vermont.gov
www.ddc.vermont.gov

TO: House Judiciary Committee
RE: Comments on S.3
FROM: Susan Aranoff, J.D., Senior Planner and Policy Analyst
DATE: April 21, 2021

Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment S. 3

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council (hereafter “VTDDC”) is a statewide board created by the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights (hereafter “the DD Act”), first adopted by Congress in 1970. Our constituents are Vermonters who have an important stake in the ability of Vermont’s forensic system to meet the needs of Vermonters with developmental disabilities. An estimated 86,000 Vermonters experience a developmental disability as defined by the DD Act, with approximately 5,100 receiving some type of community-based support through Medicaid.

VTDDC is charged under federal law with engaging at the state level in “advocacy, capacity building and systems change activities that... contribute to the coordinated, consumer-and-family-centered, consumer-and-family directed, comprehensive system that includes needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.”

The VTDDC is also required under the assurances in place with the Agency of Human Services to participate in the planning, design, and monitoring of State quality assurance systems that affect individuals with developmental disabilities.

All 50 states and the territories have a DD Council. Some are free-standing non-profits, some are embedded in state government. Here in Vermont, we are located in the Agency of Human Services Secretary's office. We are almost entirely federally funded and to receive those funds, Vermont signs a set of assurances, including an assurance to not interfere with our Council's mandated advocacy work.

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council strongly supports an independent study of the forensic care system and respectfully requests a seat at the table to advocate for the interest of Vermonters with developmental disabilities.

Thank you,

Susan Aranoff