



## Vermont State Employees' Association

155 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602;

Phone: (802) 223-5247

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March 28, 2021

Senator Jeanette White  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Senator White,

Thank you for taking testimony on S. 85. This bill is of critical importance to the transport deputies who, according to the Vermont Supreme Court, have a dual employer: the county sheriff and the State of Vermont. In a recent court decision, (In re Grievance of Welch, 2020 VT 72), the Court found that transport deputies are classified as state employees.

The State's 21 (not including 4 open positions) transport deputies are responsible for the safe transportation of alleged offenders and convicted offenders to and from our correctional facilities. We also participate in the transportation of youth in state custody to programs throughout the State of Vermont, patients who are suffering from mental illness, and coordinate and execute extraditions nationwide.

We are paid by the State of Vermont, we are part of the State's health care and retirement program, and we are subject to the policies of the State of Vermont. We would request the right to become part of a bargaining unit with the VSEA, so we can have a voice in the process that determines our compensation, benefits, and working conditions. This requires a small statutory clarification.

We ask for your favorable vote recommending this bill.

Respectfully,



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## Addison County

*CPT Charles Clark*

## Caledonia County

*L/T James Hemond*

## Franklin County

*Dep Corey Griswold*

*Dep Karry Andileigh*

## Orleans County

*Cpl Corey Bingham*

## Windham County

*ISG Robert Lakin*

*SGT Dana Shepard*

## Washington County

*CPT Bret Meyer*

*L/T Marc Poulin*

## Bennington County

*SGT Tyler LeBarron*

*Dep Christopher Bohl*

## Chittenden County

*CPT Robert Stebbins SGT Thomas Thibault*

*CPL Thomas Oliver SGT Robert Bortchwick*

*Dep Jerod Adams*

## Orange County

*CPT Scott Clouatre*

## Rutland County

*L/T Johnathan Bixby*

*Dep Stephen Benard*

## Windsor County

*SGT Raymond Herb*

*SGT Michael Gilderdale*