



TO: House Education Committee

FROM: Cara Zimmerman, Director of Policy Services and Legislative Affairs,
Vermont School Boards Association

RE: S.187

DATE: April 12, 2024

Good afternoon, I am Cara Zimmerman, Director of Policy Services and Legislative Affairs of the Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA). We testified in Senate Health and Welfare on S.187 and appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of this bill in your committee.

We support the intent of the bill as well as the language in the bill that is before you now. The bill works to create consistency across the state so that all kids are permitted to apply sunscreen lotion during the school day with written permission from a parent or guardian, and without requiring schools to provide the sunscreen and teachers to apply it.

An earlier version of the bill gave schools the option to adopt a policy to allow school personnel to assist a student in applying topical, non aerosolized sunscreen with written permission from the student's parent or guardian. We did not support that language for three reasons. First, in the public school realm, schools don't adopt policies; school boards adopt policies. 16 V.S.A. Section 563(1). Second, it is not necessary to include in this bill the authority for school boards to adopt a policy; they already have the authority under 16 V.S.A. Section 563(1). If this bill becomes law, the VSBA will analyze the final language and determine whether a model policy would be helpful to school boards. If the answer is yes, we will develop a model policy and notify school boards. Third, the language in the bill stating schools may adopt policies allowing school personnel to apply sunscreen was confusing when read with another subsection of the bill which stated that school personnel shall not be required to assist students in applying sunscreen. The Senate Health and Welfare incorporated our testimony into the

version of the bill that is before you now - I raise these concerns on an earlier version of the bill in case your committee decides to amend the bill to include a required policy.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on S.187.