

## **For the Record Rep Emilie Krasnow South Burlington**

To use an expression that i know we all love in this building, H. 858 truly is a simple bill.

This would make one change to State law— it would allow Vermont’s roughly 90 assistant attorneys general, or “AAGs, as they are often known” to collectively bargain under the State Employees’ Labor Relations Act, known as “SELRA.”

Ensuring that the attorneys who work for State government have the right to join a union is in no way an unprecedented action for this legislature. Seven years ago, we amended SELRA to ensure Vermont’s Deputy State’s Attorneys had the right to collectively bargain on a statewide basis. This change has been tremendously impactful for those public servants, resulting in higher pay for public servants doing vital public safety work.

The AAGs, like all workers, should have the right to collectively bargain with their employers. They should have the right to form a union. They work every day on behalf of Vermonters from South Burlington to North Bennington, and they deserve our support.

By passing this bill, we can correct an oversight in State law and ensure that the labor rights of our assistant attorneys general are codified and protected.