

Written Testimony to the Vermont Legislature Re: H.847

April 19,2024

By Vermont Psychiatric Survivors

Vermont Psychiatric Survivors Board Of Directors supports this bill as it relates to Peer Certification.

Thanks to consultation with others some of our earlier concerns about this bill have been eased.

We are happy with the ability of people to be able to continue to do peer work without certification if they so desire. This is really important because it shows flexibility. This is something that VPS has stressed since 2006.

Some important points to stress

The question has been raised about what certification means.

1. It opens the door for Medicaid money.
2. A career path should one want to pursue it
3. Recognition by other service providers and recognition for this work!

Lastly VPS stresses that it's time for everyone to come together and get H.847 passed
We need to come together and keep doing this important, valuable work in Vermont and beyond!

Respectfully Submitted,

Zachary Hughes

Board Vice President

Vermomnt Psychiatric Survivors

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