



H. 171– Adult Protective Services
Sarah Robinson, Deputy Director
March 15th, 2023

Thank you for your work on H. 171, An Act Related to Adult Protective Services. We are grateful for the proposed changes in the bill and support the revised draft the Committee is reviewing.

The language changes related to crisis worker privilege are especially important for victims and survivors who rely on confidential support from victim advocates. We understand and appreciate the importance of mandated reporting to keep vulnerable adults safe and alert systems to potential abuse. Reporting suspected abuse is complex. While making a report is an essential safety measure, it is not the only – nor always the most effective way - to help an individual. Most crisis workers are already mandated reporters because their employing agencies receive funds from the Agency of Human Services. Ensuring that crisis worker privilege is clearly respected in this bill supports and expands vulnerable adults' support networks. Receiving confidential support from a victim advocate is an essential option for all victims of abuse.

Thank you for your work on this bill.