

From: Ann Schroeder

Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 6:28 PM

To: Tom Burditt; Kevin Christie; Joseph Andriano; Angela Arsenault; Ela Chapin; Kari Dolan; Kenneth Goslant; Thomas Oliver; Barbara Rachelson; Peninah Hodin; Martin LaLonde; William Notte

Subject: In Opposition to S.36

Dear House Judiciary Committee and Committee Assistant,

I am writing in opposition to S.36, An act relating to permitting an arrest without a warrant for assaults and threats against health care workers and disorderly conduct at health care facilities.

Please ask the Committee Assistant to add this to the record.

I am concerned that this bill will add more police to health care settings. This has already been shown to be a bad idea in school settings.

[New research finds armed officers increases likelihood of mortality at school shootings | MPR News](#)

And just like in schools, it's likely that people of color will suffer disproportionately from police in health care settings. According to ACLU-VT, Black students make up 3% of Vermont's student population but represent 13% of school arrests and 9% of referrals to law enforcement.

According to [Health Effects of Policing in Hospitals: a Narrative Review - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

“Unchecked law enforcement activity in hospitals may risk patient physical and mental health, reduce patient trust, result in bias and discrimination, and contribute to legal and ethical rights violations.”

Please vote against this bill and consider next year instead something like H.265, An act relating to requiring the adoption of a Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Act standard for violence prevention in health care and community services workplaces.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/H.265>

That bill would require the Commissioner of Labor to issue a standard under the Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Act for violence prevention in health care and community services workplaces. The standard would be based on the

Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Service Workers (osha.gov)

Thank you.

Ann Schroeder
Dummerston