

March 27, 2024

State of Vermont
Senate Chamber
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Re: [H.847, an act relating to peer support provider and recovery support specialist certification](#)

Dear Senate Committee on Health and Welfare:

[Wilda L. White Consulting](#) has been retained by the Peer Workforce Development Initiative (PWDI) to assist in the development and implementation of a statewide mental health peer support provider certification in the State of Vermont. PWDI is a Department of Mental Health, grant-funded initiative to help the State of Vermont build and maintain an infrastructure for a statewide, peer support provider workforce.

I am writing on behalf of PWDI to express its support of H.847, as it pertains to certified mental health peer support providers. H.847 is the culmination of work that began many years ago, including the work this Committee did in 2022 to advance S.195, an act relating to the certification of mental health peer support specialists.

With the passage of H.847, Vermont will become the 49th state to offer a statewide, Medicaid-compliant, mental health peer support provider certification program. As you know, peer support provider certification offers a host of benefits, including Medicaid reimbursement for peer support services, the creation of a career ladder and professional development opportunities for peer support providers, and standardization of peer support provider training and ethical requirements.

PWDI respectfully requests your favorable vote on H.847.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns about the bill.

Very truly yours,



Wilda L. White

cc: Hilary Melton, Chair, Peer Workforce Development Initiative