

Social Services Providers Safety
The Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Amendment to S.189
February 23, 2024

Social service workers nationally have one of the highest rates of injuries and illnesses of all occupations. Two social workers have died in the last 8 years in Vermont due to violence perpetrated by clients. As such, this is a complex issue that deserves attention.

NASW-VT is proposing the following amendment to S.189.

Sex. XXX

On or before January 31, 2025, the Department of Mental Health, in consultation with the Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-VT) shall present findings and recommendations of community-based organization meetings related to social service provider safety, organized by NASW-VT, to the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and Judiciary and the House Committees on Health Care and Judiciary. Organizations invited to attend will include the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness, mental health and health care providers, community action programs, parent child centers, substance use treatment and prevention counselors, long-term care providers, restorative justice service providers, health care providers, and disability service providers. In addition to findings and recommendations, the presentation shall also include a list of organizations which participated in the meetings, the number of meetings convened, the dates of the meetings.