



H. 931 The Advisory Council on Hazing, Harassment, and Bullying Prevention in Schools
Lynn Currier, Executive Director
Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
May 14, 2026

On behalf of School Social Workers, we are writing to express our strong support for the proposed amendments to the Advisory Council on Hazing, Harassment, and Bullying Prevention in Schools. At this time, as the Agency of Education begins to move forward in seriously addressing the HHB issues we have in our Vermont schools, it is both imperative to expand the composition of the Council as set forth in H.931, as well as include a School Social Worker on the Council.

The importance of expanding the composition of the Council

Currently, the Council is heavily made up of administrators in the education system in Vermont. It is important to have voices on the Council, not just in focus groups or community outreach, ***but at the table***, to have the benefit of the work and experience of those listed organizations and individuals – they work with students and families experiencing the challenges that the Council is addressing. Their expertise is valuable as the Council moves forward in its work.

The importance of adding a School Social Worker to the Council

School Social Workers engage with students and families to reduce the barriers students may encounter in accessing their education. School Social Workers are the home-school-community liaison for students. We often meet with students and their families both in school and at home, provide behavior assessments and direct social/emotional services, treat emotional disorders, provide case management, and assist in developing behavior intervention plans.

School Social Workers regularly work with students who are experiencing and perpetuating hazing, harassment, and bullying in schools. We work directly with the students, their families, teachers, and other school resources to address and mitigate the harm caused to students. We are engaged in communications with our school resource partners to address HHB prevention.

Two years ago, NASW-VT, representing Vermont School Social Workers, participated in the Working Group on Student Protections from Harassment and Discrimination in Schools. We assumed this role due to our unique position in this field related to HHB. The way to effect meaningful and impactful change is to include these voices. The perspectives of those at the systems level and the direct-service level will create a more comprehensive council with more comprehensive outcomes.

Thank you for your continued work on this issue and for addressing the need to make these necessary changes to the HHB Council.

