

**April 22, 2025, at 1pm Testimony**

*Right to Collectively Bargain*

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My name is Ashley Stackowitz. I work at Vermont State University as a mental health counselor, supporting students on the Randolph and Williston campuses. I also serve as a co-president of my local union, Vermont State Colleges United Professionals.

I have been a dues payer to my local union for just about six years. The power and strength in the unity of the people has placed me in awe time after time. My colleagues often hear me say, “It takes a village!” because it does. I’m also often heard saying, “Vermont is a small world!” because it is. We are deeply interconnected throughout this brave little state. Proposition 3 would enshrine the right, that I believe every employee should have the decision to make for themselves, from the winds of change that are happening outside of our state.

I am testifying today in favor of Proposition 3, Declaration of Rights; right to collectively bargain. Empower our workers to have a significant voice in their employment terms, ensure fair compensation, working conditions, and job security. Help our Vermont citizens to continue cultivating a strong, robust workforce and economy.

This proposed amendment was passed by the Senate with a unanimous vote, and today I ask your committee to send this on to the voters of the State of Vermont. I ask you to allow the voices of Vermont’s workforce be heard at the polls.