



To: House Committee on Human Services  
From: Elizabeth Daley, Youth Voice Committee Chair of Vermont State Youth Council,  
info@vtstateyouthcouncil.org  
Date: 3/10/2026

House Committee on Human Services Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Elizabeth Daley, and I am the Youth Voice Committee Chair on the Vermont State Youth Council. The council recently voted unanimously to support H.657. Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. And thank you for your continued work on Vermont House bill 657 and for the time you have already spent hearing testimony on this issue.

As a young person deeply engaged in advocacy, I want to emphasize how important this bill is from a youth perspective. Young people experiencing homelessness, often face barriers that adults may not realize exist. Many services require parental consent, which can make it nearly impossible for those who are unaccompanied to access healthcare, housing support, or other critical resources by creating a pathway for young people to be certified as unaccompanied, homeless youth and access services. H.657 helps ensure that young people are not left without support simply because they do not have a parent or guardian present.

Beyond helping individual young people, policies like this can have a broader positive impact across Vermont. When you can access services early, whether that is safe, housing, healthcare, or supportive programs, it helps prevent deeper crises later on. Supporting young people before challenges escalate, strengthens communities, improves long-term stability, and helps ensure that Vermont you can move forward to an education, employment, and healthy futures.



Ultimately H.657 recognizes something simple but important: young people deserve the ability to access help when they need it. By reducing barriers and trusting the professionals who work with youth every day, we have the opportunity to create a system that is more responsive, compassionate, and effective. I hope the committee continues moving this work forward for young people across our state. Know that when they reach out for help, support will be there.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Vermont youth.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Daley