

To: House Committee on Human Services

From: Nicole Miller, Executive Director, Vermont Afterschool  
[nicole@vermontafterschool.org](mailto:nicole@vermontafterschool.org) | 802-448-3464

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Re: S.206 – An act related to licensure of early childhood educators by the Office of Professional Regulation

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Good afternoon, my name is Nicole Miller, and I'm the Executive Director of Vermont Afterschool, a nonprofit organization that works to strengthen afterschool and summer programs, empower youth, and expand access so that any child or youth in Vermont who wants to attend a program can do so.

I was asked to testify to you all today about S.206.

From our understanding of the bill, it appears not to significantly affect afterschool providers, as they are exempt under *§ 6203 Exemptions*.

This is not because we would not want afterschool and summer program professionals recognized for their work and impact with Vermont's children and youth, but more so because of the complexity. As you all know, the afterschool field is diverse, with multiple types of entities and funding streams supporting the programs and youth development professionals that work within them. At this time, we agree that afterschool professionals, whether in a CDD-regulated Afterschool Child Care Program, or outside the regulated system, should be excluded from these changes.

We understand that those individuals who may work in a Center-Based Child Care and Preschool Program, which serves birth through age 12, who work in both an early education classroom, and then transition to working with school-agers, would be impacted, but that is because they are working with those covered in early education, and would need to be licensed.

As a result, Vermont Afterschool is neutral about S.206's goals and intent.

Lastly, I am happy to continue working with the Committee as you work on this issue and related bills. Thank you again for your time.