

VERMONT STATE POLICE
St. Albans Barracks

Memo



To: House Judiciary Committee
From: Lieutenant Michael Filipek
Date: 3/18/2025
Re: S.009 An act relating to after-hours access to orders against sexual assault

House Judiciary Committee,

I support the legislation.

The proposed bill, S.009, is a critical step toward enhancing public safety and providing immediate protection for victims of sexual assault in Vermont. By ensuring that victims can access orders against sexual assault after regular court hours, weekends, and holidays, the bill allows for swift action in emergency situations. The courts already provide after-hours protection order support for other circumstances (i.e. victims of domestic assault), therefore this requires minimal changes to the framework that exist, it is rather an expansion of protection.

This timely intervention is crucial in preventing further harm to victims, ensuring their safety, and providing them with legal protection when they need it most. The bill also facilitates access to justice by utilizing modern technologies, such as electronic submissions, which will make the process more efficient and accessible, especially in urgent circumstances. Ultimately, this legislation supports victims by providing them with the tools they need to protect themselves and helps ensure public safety by ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable without unnecessary delay.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Filipek". The signature is written in a cursive style.