

Dear Senator Hashim and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of S.151. Over the past 20 years I have served in a multitude of volunteer capacities in my town, region and the state. The positions have been varied and diverse, but given my good fortune and education, I have found great personal satisfaction and at times even a sense of purpose volunteering in schools, local financial relief funds and a whole host of Boards, including Let's Grow Kids and the Vermont Community Foundation.

Unfortunately, over the decades, there have been times I have been challenged in ways that felt almost perverse despite my good intentions as a volunteer. With the gift of time and observation, my view is that litigious behavior has only grown more toxic over time. I see it impacting good peoples' willingness to step up and offer their time and talents.

My experiences and personal sacrifices (never accepting financial rewards even when offered) have significantly reduced my willingness to join another board. I have grown leery and even cautioned others to think carefully before volunteering. When volunteering carries the risk of prolonged legal battles, personal expense, and added stress, it's fair to ask why anyone would step forward when we already have so much to manage.

S.151 would help protect volunteers acting in good faith and reduce the chilling effect that litigation risk has on community service. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Seely
Bridgewater, VT