

From: Wilda White

Dear Chair Lippert, Vice Chair Donahue and Ranking Member Houghton:

I write on behalf of the proponents of [S. 195](#), an act relating to the certification of mental health peer support specialists, to ask the House Committee on Health Care not to act further on [S. 195](#). Proponents who join this request include Another Way Community Center, Alyssum, Pathways Vermont, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, MadFreedom, and the Peer Workforce Development Initiative.

As we have previously explained, the bill is unfunded, and based on comments made during the last hearing, the House Committee on Health Care seems poised to amend the bill in ways that are unacceptable to the peer community and contrary to the careful compromise we struck with community members who might otherwise have been opposed to the bill.

We have been in discussions with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and have agreed to work cooperatively with DMH to develop and implement a statewide peer certification program outside of the legislative process.

Will you kindly confirm that the House Committee on Health Care will cease its consideration of [S. 195](#)?

Thank you for your consideration.

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