

Vermont Home Education Network
Updated draft is available – no action needed
April 18, 2023

Hello,

I went to the State House again today. This time to listen to the walk through for draft 1.1 of H.461, which is the first draft of the Senate version of the House bill. And again, the previous testimony on other parts of the bill ran over and the walk through was postponed to another day. But it was not a wasted trip!

First, this is the [link to Draft No. 1.1 – H.461](#), which is dated 4/5/23. So, I am glad we did NOT do an email campaign about their comments in committee discussion. This draft is identical to the House passed version which I supported. In my testimony to Senate Ed, I had made some suggested edits to the language and the AOE supported three of those. So, when you look at the bill, starting on page 4, the words that are underlined are new, not underlined is the current statute, and in yellow are the edits made by Senate Ed which were my suggestions word for word.

Second, and this is why I actually like to be present in the State House, I got to speak briefly with the chair, Sen Brian Campion. As I was leaving, he asked me if I had seen the language and was it ok? I said I had seen the language and yes it was ok. He then asked if I had traveled far to be there? I said no I only live 19 miles away and will be back to listen to the AOE testimony and then committee discussion about the bill.

It is moments like that in which you can build a connection with the legislators. It is way better to do that than what I often see from upset constituents who come to the State House not knowing how things work in that building. Years ago, I first met Sen Campion when he was a Representative sitting in House Education. You never know down the road how your behavior today will affect the future. So, I am always nice and polite and respectful of their positions, even when I do not agree with them.

Over the next week or so, I will be going back to the State House every time H.461 is on the schedule to listen to them and will let you know what happened. I still think they have bigger issues they would rather deal with than a technical corrections bill submitted by the AOE to get rid of needless paper work for home study.

Still, this is not a time to declare victory but to be vigilant and watch.

Retta Dunlap
802.472.5491
mountainfoldvt@gmail.com
www.vhen.org