STATE OF VERMONT OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL 109 STATE STREET MONTPELIER, VT 05609-1001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 23, 2025

CONTACT: Amelia Vath, Outreach and Communications Coordinator, 802-828-3171

Joint Statement from Attorney General Clark and the Human Rights Commission

The Vermont Attorney General's Office and the Vermont Human Rights Commission issued the following joint statement affirming their commitment to enforcement of laws protecting Vermonters against discrimination on the basis of gender identity:

"Vermont's motto, "freedom and unity," reflects our values. This is a place where people can live freely and openly, and where we stand together to defend our neighbors. That's why Vermont has long been a leader in protecting and advancing the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. Vermonters are protected against discrimination on the basis of gender identity, including at work and in places of public accommodations, under Vermont law. The Vermont Attorney General's Office and the Vermont Human Rights Commission will continue to enforce these laws and others protecting Vermonters against unlawful discrimination. Regardless of changes in federal policy, the law in Vermont is clear that businesses, public agencies, housing providers, and employers may not discriminate against people based on their gender identity. Our offices are committed to ensuring that Vermont remains a safe and supportive place for non-binary and transgender people, and for their families and loved ones. We are proud to do this work on behalf of all Vermonters. Anyone who believes they may have been discriminated against is encouraged to reach out to our offices at the information below."

For discrimination in housing, places of public accommodation, and State of Vermont employment, the Vermont Human Rights Commission: https://hrc.vermont.gov/how-to-file

For discrimination in private-sector employment, the Vermont Civil Rights Unit: <u>https://ago.vermont.gov/divisions/civil-rights</u>

