

Policy & Oversight Focused Letter

POLICY & OVERSIGHT FOCUSED

Subject: Policy Concern: Criminalization of Veteran Crisis Intervention Cases

Dear [Title and Name],

I am writing to express concern regarding the broader implications of the prosecution of Veteran Joseph "JJ" Millett.

This case presents a troubling intersection between mental health intervention and criminal prosecution. A Veteran reportedly contacted the Veterans Crisis Line during a period of acute distress, surrendered himself, and entered treatment—yet now faces domestic terrorism charges.

If accurate, this situation raises important policy questions:

How are crisis calls being interpreted and escalated to law enforcement?

What role does intent play when statements are made during documented psychological distress?

Are current legal frameworks adequately equipped to distinguish between credible threats and mental health crises?

There is a real risk that cases like this could discourage Veterans from utilizing crisis resources, undermining years of effort to reduce suicide and increase early intervention.

I respectfully urge your office to:

Review this case within the context of mental health policy

Evaluate the need for clearer guidelines between crisis response and criminal prosecution

Consider legislative or oversight measures that protect individuals seeking help during psychological emergencies

Ensuring public safety and protecting due process are not mutually exclusive goals. This case presents an opportunity to reinforce both.

Respectfully,

[Your Name]

Constituent Advocacy Letter

Subject: Urgent Concern Regarding the Prosecution of Veteran Joseph “JJ” Millett

Dear [Title and Name],

I am writing to you today regarding the case of Joseph “JJ” Millett, a combat Veteran currently facing domestic terrorism charges in the State of Vermont.

Based on publicly available information, Mr. Millett contacted the Veterans Crisis Line during a severe mental health emergency. He voluntarily surrendered his firearms, turned himself in to law enforcement, and entered treatment.

Despite these actions, he is now facing charges that carry the possibility of up to 20 years in prison.

This situation raises serious concerns about how mental health crises—particularly among Veterans—are being interpreted and prosecuted.

Veterans are consistently encouraged to seek help through crisis resources like the 988 line. If doing so can lead to severe criminal charges, it risks creating a chilling effect that may deter others from reaching out in moments of crisis.

I respectfully ask:

Has this case been reviewed with consideration of mental health and Veteran-specific factors?

Are there alternatives, such as diversion to a Veterans Treatment Court, being considered?

What safeguards exist to ensure that seeking help is not effectively criminalized?

This is not simply about one individual. It is about maintaining trust in systems designed to prevent tragedy.

I urge your office to review this case carefully and ensure that justice is applied in a manner that reflects both the law and the realities of mental health crises among those who have served.

Respectfully,

[Your Name]

[City, State]

Veteran Community Voice Letter

Subject: A Veteran Asked for Help — Why Is He Facing 20 Years?

Dear [Title and Name],

I'm reaching out about the case of Joseph "JJ" Millett, a Veteran who is currently being prosecuted after calling the Veterans Crisis Line during a mental health emergency.

Let's be clear about what's being seen from the outside:

A Veteran in crisis

Called for help

Surrendered his weapons

Turned himself in

And is now facing domestic terrorism charges.

This raises a serious question that many in the Veteran community are already asking:

If this is the outcome, why would anyone call for help?

That question should concern every policymaker responsible for Veteran care, public safety, and mental health systems.

No one is arguing that threats should be ignored. But context matters. Intent matters. Mental health crises must be handled with the nuance they require.

Right now, this case risks sending the message that asking for help can be used against you.

I am asking your office to take a hard look at this situation and ensure that justice is being pursued responsibly, with full consideration of the circumstances.

Veterans are watching this case closely.

Respectfully,

[Your Name]

Advocacy Contact Packet

State Leadership (Primary Targets)

Governor of Vermont – Phil Scott

- Phone: 802-828-3333
- Address: 109 State St., Pavilion, Montpelier, VT 05609
- Email: Typically via contact form (state system)
- <https://vermontce.my.vermont.gov/s/governor-office-ce>
- Boards that may be of help under the Governor's Advisory:
- https://governor.vermont.gov/boards_and_commissions/veterans_advisory
- <https://governor.vermont.gov/content/mental-health-crisis-response-commission>

Vermont Attorney General – Charity Clark

- Phone: 802-828-3171
- Address: 109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05609
- Fax: 802-828-2154
- Email: Via official form (AGO website)
- <https://ago.vermont.gov/contact-form>

Orleans County State's Attorney – Farzana Leyva

- Phone: 802-334-2037
- Fax: 802-334-3319
- Address: 5086 US Route 5, Suite 2, Newport, VT 05855
- <https://prosecutors.vermont.gov/offices/orleans/>
- This is ground zero for prosecutorial pressure.

Federal Representatives

U.S. Senator – Bernie Sanders

- DC: 202-224-5141
- VT Office: 802-862-0697
- Address (DC): 332 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
- VT Office: 1 Church St, 3rd Floor, Burlington, VT 05401
- Email: Contact form via website
- <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/contact/>

U.S. Senator – Peter Welch

- DC: 202-224-4242
- VT Office: 802-863-2525
- Address (VT): 199 Main St, 4th Floor, Burlington, VT 05401
- Address (DC): Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
- <https://www.welch.senate.gov/email-peter/>

U.S. House Representative – Becca Balint (VT At-Large)

- VT Office: 802-652-2450
- DC: 202-225-4115
- VT Office: 159 Bank Street, Suite 204, Burlington, VT 05401
- DC Address: 1408 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
- <https://balint.house.gov/contact/>

VA / Support Resources

VA White House Hotline (Veteran Crisis Escalation)

- 1-855-948-2311

Veterans Crisis Line (Context Reference)

- 988 (Press 1 for Veterans)

VA Regional Office (Vermont Area – White River Junction)

- 802-295-9363 (VA Medical Center main)
- Address: 215 North Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05009
- <https://www.va.gov/white-river-junction-va-regional-benefit-office/>
- This is where you escalate policy + care concerns, not prosecution.

For more information, please visit: HellfishHaven.org/JusticeForVetsVT