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Dear Senator Kitchel:

Thank you for your work to keep Vermonters experiencing homelessness sheltered as you balance many housing priorities. I am writing to recommend the following investments to advance the goals of keeping Vermonters experiencing homelessness sheltered, building a transition from the GA Emergency Housing program to less cost-intensive and best practice approaches to emergency and permanent housing, and addressing the state's longstanding and growing crisis of housing and homelessness.

- (1) \$40,000,000 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for a new Vermont HomeBridge program to expand non-congregate emergency and permanent housing capacity;
- (2) \$10,000,000 in additional base funding to the Housing Opportunity Fund to provide operational support for wrap-around services for households in emergency housing programs.
- (3) \$ 50,000,000 to the General Assistance Emergency Housing program for emergency housing. This \$50,000,000 will be used to keep Vermonters in the GA Emergency Housing program sheltered during the implementation of the Vermont HomeBridge program. It can be used for other forms of non-congregate emergency housing, including the acquisition of motels and other properties for emergency and permanent housing, as long as it does not disrupt the continuity of shelter of Vermonters experiencing homelessness.

Recognizing the importance of sustained investment to address our housing crisis, we ask that this funding not be deducted from appropriations for permanent, affordable housing.

Thank you for your leadership as we work to prevent mass unsheltered homelessness as we address Vermont's longer-term housing crisis.

Best,

Anne N. Sosin

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