

September 12, 2013

Sen. Virginia "Ginny" Lyons, Chair
Health Care Oversight Committee
Vermont State House
Montpelier VT 05633-5301

Rep. Jill Krowinski, Vice Chair
Health Care Oversight Committee
Vermont State House
Montpelier VT 05633-5301

Dear Senator Lyon and Representative Krowinski:

Thank you for your letter of August 22nd concerning my August 8th testimony. I apologize for the delay in my response: your letter overlapped with my vacation and our relocation to 459 Hurricane Lane.

Choices for Care Reinvestment and Moderate Needs Group

Act 50 directs the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) to present a reinvestment plan during budget adjustment. As you noted, Act 50 Section E. 308.1 also contains language providing for the acceleration of reinvestment of Choices for Care savings in the event of an emergency situation. During my testimony on the 8th, I indicated that while DAIL shares the concern with the continued problem of waiting lists for services in the moderate needs group we did not think we could justify calling it an emergency. We discussed the question of whether or not the Committee felt this met the intent of Section E. 308. I appreciated your clearly articulated view that *the waitlists [are] a systemic emergency- as there has been little improvement in clearing up the waitlist since last year when HCOC first expressed this concern. Hundreds of frail elders are unnecessarily hurting and waiting for homemaker and adult day services.*

Subsequently, the Joint Fiscal Committee advised both of us in writing that they did not believe the moderate needs group waiting list constituted an emergency given the chronic nature of the problem, and the fact that these individuals do not, by definition, have high needs.

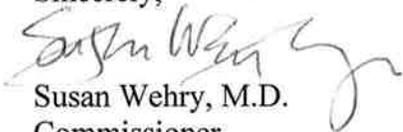
The Department is working on a more comprehensive strategy to address the moderate needs group which I can outline during my testimony on September 12.

Sen. Lyons and Rep. Krowinski
September 12, 2013
RE: August 22nd Testimony

Senior Nutrition

Today, the Joint Fiscal Committee did approve accelerated use of \$210K of the Choices for Care reinvestment savings to address senior food insecurity and nutrition needs. I am also happy to speak more about this when we meet tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Wehry".

Susan Wehry, M.D.
Commissioner