



State of Vermont
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" While the Department of Mental Health is sympathetic to state employees who are smokers and feel they would be negatively affected by this bill, we support the language in H.217 that establishes all areas of publically-owned buildings and offices, including outside property or grounds leased by the state, as smoke-free.

" As the operator of two state-run healthcare facilities (Middlesex Therapeutic Community Residence and Green Mountain Psychiatric Care Center) and the soon-to-be-opened Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital, DMH feels this legislation is consistent with a nationwide trend of banning all tobacco products on the grounds of healthcare facilities. To allow smoking on the grounds of our new state hospital would place Vermont in a small minority of states that allow this practice, and we feel it is in the best interest of our patients and staff to have a smoke-free, healthy environment.

" Regardless of whether or not H.217 is passed, DMH will continue its efforts to offer staff and patients of its facilities with nicotine cessation resources and therapies (e.g. 802Quits).