

AHEC & Educational Loan Repayment follow-up as per our conversation this morning

March 26, 2015

Dear Representative Lippert,

Thank you for talking with me this morning about the VT Educational Loan Repayment (ELR) Program for Health Care Professionals; this email is to follow up on that conversation.

Attached Documents (4):

* ELR program summary info

* 2014 ELR program snapshot--# of applications, # of awards (the 2015 process is underway now)

* Letter about ELR sent to Governor Shumlin from the Governor's Health Care Workforce Advisory Group

* Response from Secretary Johnson regarding letter about ELR

While recognizing Vermont's structural budget pressures and spending at a higher rate than revenue growth, it is noteworthy that the state invests less general funds (GF) in the ELR program in recent years (~\$400,000 GF in FY15) than it did in 2005 (\$540,000 in GF) due to Global Commitment which has impacted the ELR funding since 2006. ELR is not directly contributing to the increased spending rate. Eliminating ELR, as proposed in the Governor's FY16 budget, will put Vermont at a significant disadvantage as we work to compete nationally for a highly skilled health care workforce.

Please let me know if you have questions about the loan repayment program. Thank you for all that you are doing on behalf of Vermonters.

Sincerely,
Liz

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