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 Office of the Secretary
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TO: House Committee on Health Care
FROM: Office of Racial Equity
DATE: April 7, 2023
RE: Memo in support of FY24 budget appropriations for the Health Equity Advisory Commission

Dear Chair Houghton,

The Office of Racial Equity is writing in support of the budget proposals of the Health Equity Advisory Commission in its 2023 Annual Report to the Legislature. The Executive Director of Racial Equity has served on the Health Equity Advisory Commission since its inception. The Legislature tasked the Health Equity Advisory Commission (“the Commission”) with many important policy development initiatives, including making recommendations towards the creation of a Vermont Office of Health Equity. The Commission has contributed extensive policy recommendations for improving health equity in its [Preliminary Report on Health Equity](#)¹ published February 7, 2022, its second [Annual Report](#)² published February 15, 2023, and its [Report on Continuing Education](#)³ for health care professionals published November 1, 2022.

The following budget allocation requests were made in the second [Annual Report of the HEAC](#) published February 15, 2023 (refer to pages 10-11):

Budget Overview

HEAC Governance, Staffing and Administration	\$120,000.00
Assessment of State Policies and Programs (Consulting)	\$160,000.00
Community-based and Neighborhood-based Grants	\$750,000.00
HEAC Compensation and Community Engagement and Facility Expenses	\$90,000.00
Office Of Health Equity Initial Staffing, Overhead and Indirect Expenses (ED and 2 Managers)	\$450,000.00
Total	\$1,570,000.00

The Office supports the vision of the Commission and urges the State to support that vision through tangible investment and solution-oriented policies that will meaningfully improve outcomes for people experiencing health disparities as a result of systemic inequities.

¹ Full link text: <https://aoa.vermont.gov/sites/aoa/files/HEAC%20Report%201%20-%20Preliminary%20Findings%20on%20Health%20Equity%20in%20Vermont.pdf>

² Full link text: https://aoa.vermont.gov/sites/aoa/files/documents/HEAC-Annual-Report_02152023_2100-.pdf

³ Full link text: https://aoa.vermont.gov/sites/aoa/files/InfoReportReleases/HEAC_Report_on_Continuing_Education_10-31-2022.pdf