



Date: April 17, 2023
To: Chair Wood and members of the House Committee on Human Services
CC: Representative Jessica Brumsted, Legislative representative on the State Advisory Council
From: Dr. Morgan Crossman, Executive Director, Building Bright Futures
Re: H. 208/S56: An act relating to Child Care and Early Childhood Education

CONSIDERATIONS & FISCAL IMPLICATIONS FOR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES CREATED FOR BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES

Systems change is complex and takes time, and it is critical that there is a consistent accountability infrastructure in place to support Vermont with initial planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and continuous quality improvement that can withstand transitions in the legislature and the administration to ensure that Vermont holds to the vision collectively articulated over the next 10+ years. It's important that this bill establishes an entity with responsibility for ensuring that level of accountability as Vermont transforms the system. Building Bright Futures is well positioned to support this role.

If this is the role you would like Building Bright Futures to play, our recommendation is to replace the current language in Sec. 21 to be:

“Sec. 21. BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; ACCOUNTABILITY; STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

In order to monitor the impact of this Act and to ensure successful implementation, Building Bright Futures is responsible for monitoring accountability, supporting Vermont in collectively defining and measuring success, maximizing stakeholder engagement, and providing technical assistance to build capacity for the Department for Children and Families' Child Development Division and the Agency of Education. This includes:

- 1. Ensuring accountability through monitoring any and all transitions over time and reporting back to the Legislature annually by January 30th.*
- 2. Defining and measuring success for this legislation related to process and outcomes using a continuous quality improvement framework. Specifically, Building Bright Futures will utilize their network including public, private, legislative, and family partners to develop benchmarks based on the intent of this legislation:*
 - Child care access and quality*
 - Prekindergarten education access and quality*
 - Afterschool and out of school time care access and quality*
 - Financial stability of child care programs;*
 - Stability of the early childhood education workforce*
 - Impact on Vermont's workforce capacity and needs*
 - Maintain a mixed-delivery system for prekindergarten, child care, and afterschool and summer care, and*
 - Process, implementation, and outcomes*



3. *Prioritizing and maximizing cross-sector stakeholder engagement related to implementing this legislation”*

Fiscal Implications: This level of support and monitoring of systems transformation is a significant, ongoing scope of work that will require an additional base public investment of \$266,707 annually for the Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council. Of note, the legislative allocation for the Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council is currently \$505,000 routed through the Child Development Division. A base allocation increase of \$266,707 will result in a total of \$771,707 annual base allocation annually (which is still less than 50% of the operating budget for the organization). This funding is critical to ensure that at 3, 5, 10 years, and decades to come, BBF can continue to track this body of work to support government accountability for large-scale change in Vermont’s early childhood system. This funding includes financial support for BBF staff time to oversee and implement all aspects of this scope, which is in addition to meeting the currently required roles and responsibilities of our statute.