



STATE OF VERMONT
SENATE

April 17, 2014

Luke Martland, Director
Office of Legislative Council
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Mr. Martland:

During the course of this legislative session, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare (Committee) has taken a significant amount of testimony on Vermont's substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment initiatives. The Committee believes that the General Assembly could and should do more to aid the numerous Vermonters suffering from a substance use disorder, including establishing a comprehensive system of care.

To that end, the Committee envisions the creation of a statutory framework outlining the continuum of available services, ranging from education and early intervention to outpatient and residential treatment and recovery opportunities. Such a statutory framework would establish an overarching structure while, simultaneously, ensuring flexibility to address unique patient needs.

The Committee requests that the Office of Legislative Council draft such a bill for introduction in January 2015. In drafting this bill, the Office may collaborate with members of the Executive Branch, including the Department of Health's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs. The attorney drafting this bill shall provide status reports to the Health Care Oversight Committee as requested.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Senate Committee on Health and Welfare