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VSC Budget

Defining the Problem

1. Currently rank 49 out of 50 states for state support for higher education
 - a. Only NH ranks below us.
 - b. This results in one of the highest tuitions in the country for public higher education
 - c. This means our students on average graduate with more student debt than students from other states
 - d. The employees of the VSC on average have lower salaries than employees in comparable institutions elsewhere
2. Dwindling of state support:
 - a. Vermont has not always neglected higher education, but state support has consistently been reduced since 1980. In 1980, state appropriations covered 51% of the costs of the VSC. Currently they pay for 13% of the costs.
 - b. Since 1980, the burden of higher education costs has been transferred to tuition which has consistently gone up.
3. Facts about our students VSC:
 - a. 83% of our students are Vermonters
 - b. 84% of our students stay and work in Vermont after graduation
 - c. 57% of our students are first generation college students
4. An Investment in PUBLIC Higher Education is an Investment in Vermont:
 - a. Since the majority of our students stay and work in Vermont after graduation, and investment in their education truly is an investment in the future well-being of the state. They are our teachers, nurses, small business owners.

Reclaiming the Promise of Affordable Public Higher Education:

1. In the enacting legislation in 1962, the state Legislature promised to support the VSC "in whole or substantial part". It is time they live up to that promise.

2. We encourage the state to protect, invest, and build the Higher Education Trust fund.
3. Restrict VSAC portability to in-state accredited institutions or out of state institutions with reciprocity agreements.
4. We encourage the state to find alternative resources:
 - a. The Occupancy Fee Bill (would result in 12 million dollars)
 - b. If the state makes marijuana legal dedicate a portion of that revenue to higher education.