

February 1, 2018

TO: Government Accountability Committee  
FROM: House Judiciary Committee  
RE: Government Accountability Committee (GAC) indicators review

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This memo responds to the January 3, 2018 request from GAC Co-chairs Rep. Maida Townsend and Sen. Brian Collamore for feedback on the Current Outcomes and Indicators reported annually in the State Outcomes Report. Out of a list of ten desired outcomes, two appear particularly relevant to the work of the House Judiciary Committee. They are: (2) Vermonters are healthy and (4) Vermont is a safe place to live.

The second outcome -- Vermonters are healthy -- is currently measured by seven indicators. A case could be made that indicator (B), percent of adults who smoke cigarettes, should be expanded. Members of the Judiciary Committee have heard copious testimony about the impact of opiates and related substances upon our state. Broadening the indicator to "number of persons (adults and children) who are in substance abuse treatment" may offer a more meaningful assessment of Vermonters' health.

The fourth outcome -- Vermont is a safe place to live -- is measured by six indicators. The committee believes the six indicators currently listed offer are appropriate for considering how our state fares in terms of being a safe place to live.