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Susanne R. Young, Secretary

January 22, 2018

Honorable Jane Kitchel, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Vermont State House
Montpelier, VT 05609

Dear Senator Kitchel:

I write with respect to H.633, *An Act Relating to Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Adjustments*, (BAA), as passed by the House on January 19, 2018.

ThinkVermont/Move

The Governor recommended that \$3.18 million be appropriated to launch a new ThinkVermont/Move economic development initiative. The Administration, through the collaborative work of the Vermont Agency of Commerce, Department of Marketing and Tourism, and the Department of Labor is eager to bring resources and expertise to meet continue to address our significant demographic and labor challenges with this exciting new approach. The Administration appreciates the attention the House Appropriations Committee gave to the initiative and welcomes the opportunity to make a full presentation in the Senate Appropriations Committee next week. Appropriation of this money in the BAA will allow us to start the initiative this Spring and underscores the urgency of the challenges ahead.

Street Outreach

The proposed BAA recommended \$199,985 to fund up to 13 Street Outreach workers. The House reduced the recommendation by \$135,000, which significantly reduces the impact these added resources could have on the immediate needs of individuals needing mental health services and the emergency departments. Restoring to the full recommended amount will allow the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to continue with a planned roll out of this program over the balance of the fiscal year. Factors affecting rollout and the original FY18 BAA funding request include:

- The Howard Center has agreed to share the cost of four positions on a 50/50 cost share with six participating towns in Chittenden County. All four positions may not be hired at the same time during this next month.
- DMH leadership and the Designated Agencies (DA) serving Rutland, Brattleboro and Barre/Montpelier are working together to design and negotiate an outreach program that meets

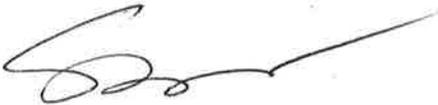
the unique needs of these areas. As agreements are discussed, fund availability from the BAA would represent a commitment to potential partners and to individuals who may apply to do this important work as Street Outreach workers and allow us to move more quickly into the field. We therefore request the restoration of these funds to the Governor's recommended level (\$199,985).

Department of Corrections Transfers of Appropriations

It has been past practice, over multiple budget cycles, the Governor's recommended BAA has included language that allows the Department of Corrections (DOC) to transfer funds between its in-state and out-of-state operational appropriations as part of the FY 2018 closeout process. The standard language includes a requirement for notice to the Joint Fiscal Office prior to a transfer. This transfer language is critical because the magnitude and makeup of the DOC prisoner population is unpredictable. With the end of the fiscal year only five months away – and no mechanism to move funds once the Legislature adjourns – it is critical that this language be restored. The FY 2019 budget will propose the DOC transfer language – and similar transfer language for the Global Commitment appropriations – that will allow departments to close their financial books if the annual language is not included in the BAA.

The Administration appreciates your full consideration of the Governor's recommended FY 18 BAA, as introduced, and looks forward to working with you as your Committee considers H. 633.

Sincerely,



Susanne R. Young
Secretary of Administration

Cc: Representative Catherine Toll, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Representative Janet Ancel, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
Representative Mitzi Johnson, Speaker, House of Representatives
Senator Ann Cummings, Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Senator Tim Ashe, Senate President Pro Tempore
Stephen Klein, Chief Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office
Adam Greshin, Commissioner, Finance and Management
