

## Memorandum

To: Senate Appropriations Committee  
From: Vermont AIDS Services Organizations  
Date: April 7, 2017  
Re: FY 18 Budget

We would like to express our concerns to you about the language in H.518, as passed by the House related to B.1103

Sec B.1103 allows the Agency of Human Services to use their discretion to cut \$1,250,000 in general funds, from the list of Human Services grants.

The majority of the funding for AIDS service organizations is federal funds, but we do receive general funds for our prevention and needle exchange programs. These programs have helped to stop the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C, and have helped reduce the incidence of fatal overdose. During this opiate crisis, it is imperative that the program continues.

We would ask that the Joint Fiscal committee have the ability to reject any cuts that may be recommended by AHS pursuant to this provision.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.