

January 23, 2018

To the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Earlier this month, Governor Scott's Opioid Coordination Council issued an initial report of recommended strategies to improve Vermont's response to our opioid crisis. The Council's work of the past year highlighted the importance of intervention techniques in supporting people with drug addiction to enter treatment when ready, resulting in recommendations to strengthen and expand syringe exchange programs, and increase screening and intervention programs in emergency departments and elsewhere.

The Council is now preparing its work agenda for the coming year. Recent public and legislative interest in safe consumption sites and programs prompts the Council to review this issue. Public health, safety and legal questions regarding these sites and accompanying programs would be explored with support from the Vermont Departments of Public Safety and Health.

On behalf of Governor Scott, who established the Opioid Coordination Council in Executive Order 02-17, I offer the Council's assistance in researching and providing a report of findings to the Senate Judiciary Committee, in conjunction with the Council's annual report to Governor Scott by October 15, 2018. We welcome input and participation by one or more representatives from your Committee as we embark on this process, to ensure we address the issues essential to the legislature's considerations.

With regards,

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