



STATE OF VERMONT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Kitty Toll, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
From: Representative Maxine Grad, Chair, House Judiciary Committee *MJG*
Date: February 28, 2019
Subject: Recommendations related to the Budget

Thank you for the chance to provide input on the budget. The House Judiciary Committee strongly supports the following priorities in particular:

- **Fair and Impartial Policing:** The House Judiciary Committee strongly supports the funding for the Racial Equity Panel and the Executive Director position, as the fair and impartial policing initiative is a high priority.
- **A Justice system that is accessible and works for everybody.** We want to make sure that the funding is adequate in order to address the growing number of cases that are coming before the Judiciary, in a fair manner and in a reasonable time frame. This will require that our infrastructure be able to handle the growing demand. We also support the Judicial Master funding and related court staff costs (docket clerk, security officer, Regional Coordinator) that is part of the CHINS project funding as this is strongly in line with our priority of these cases being dealt with as quickly as possible.
- **Diversion:** We strongly support the increase that the Attorney General's office has requested to fund the diversion program in their office. We were pleased to see the data showing both an increased use in these services, and the effectiveness of them. CRG has found that there is a decreased recidivism rate for people using these services, which will save Vermont money, and keep people out of the criminal justice system.

