

## Theresa Utton-Jerman

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**Subject:** FW: increase funding for Vermont state schools

**From:** Sargent, Elizabeth L

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Hello,

I am writing on behalf of myself, my colleagues and, most importantly, my students. I am pleading with you to carefully consider increasing state funding for VSC and UVM to return to levels seen in the 1980's at 51%. I am currently in my fourth year of teaching Doctor of Physical Therapy students in an effort to fill a need for access to primary health care in Vermont and across the US. I find myself in an ethical dilemma because our students accrue more debt earning this much needed degree than they will ever afford to pay off given the low salaries seen in the profession. Our out-of-state students pay \$172,000 to become professionals who will rarely earn over \$80,000 a year. This financial burden places an unreasonable amount of stress on students who are already taxed by the rigor of the program. In addition, the quality of our student is going down each year and attrition is rising because the best students are choosing to attend less expensive schools. It's unconscionable to continue in this fashion.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Dr. Elizabeth Sargent

*Elizabeth Sargent PT, ScD*

*Board-certified Clinical Specialist in Orthopedic Physical Therapy (OCS)*

*Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists (FAAOMPT)*

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

*Doctor of Physical Therapy Program*

*Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Science*

*306F Rowell Bldg*

*University of Vermont*

*Burlington, VT 05405*