

## Rebecca Buck

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**From:** Hoffnung, Michael A. <Michael.Hoffnung@uvmhealth.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2019 4:48 PM  
**To:** Rebecca Buck; Theresa Utton  
**Subject:** RE: Written Testimony regarding FY2020 Budget

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to advocate regarding the state financial year 2020 budget proposal which I understand includes a proposed cut in CIS funding. I wish to make the committee aware of my clinical experience at our Autism Assessment Clinic. We have encountered several families of children under age five with a confirmed diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder who have been unable to access recommended services, specifically intensive behavioral therapy based on the principles of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), which are consistently recommended by expert consensus as having the best evidence for improving outcomes.

In Chittenden County CIS-EI does not currently provide intensive behavioral services though it did provide such services in the past- as it was not sustainable under the current or recent bundled funding structure. The local providers who do provide services- SD Associates and Howard Center, both have significant wait lists for the 0-3 and 3-5 populations. This shortage appears to be based on a combination of available providers (specifically BCBA's required for insurance reimbursement), and reimbursement structures. The end result is that a significant amount of children with ASD diagnosis are not getting the recommended intensity of, or even any, ABA-based services during an integral period of development.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Hoffnung, D.O.

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Vermont Center for Children, Youth and Families  
The Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont  
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1 South Prospect St, Arnold 3  
Burlington, Vermont 05401

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**From:** Rebecca Buck <RBUCK@leg.state.vt.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2019 4:25 PM  
**To:** Hoffnung, Michael A. <Michael.Hoffnung@uvmhealth.org>; Theresa Utton <TUTTON@leg.state.vt.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Written Testimony regarding FY2020 Budget

You can submit something to us a couple of ways. Either as a letter within an email or attach a letter either as a word doc or pdf and we will pass it along to both of our appropriations committees. --Becky

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**From:** Hoffnung, Michael A. <[Michael.Hoffnung@uvmhealth.org](mailto:Michael.Hoffnung@uvmhealth.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2019 4:22 PM  
**To:** Theresa Utton <[TUTTON@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:TUTTON@leg.state.vt.us)>; Rebecca Buck <[RBUCK@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:RBUCK@leg.state.vt.us)>  
**Subject:** Written Testimony regarding FY2020 Budget

Hi, I am writing to inquire about submitting written testimony regarding the financial year 2020 State Budget- particularly regarding CIS Funding. Is there a format or anything specific I'd need to know to submit?

Thanks very much,

Michael A. Hoffnung, D.O.

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