

Senate Economic Development

January 31, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

We VERY much appreciate Senators Sirotkin, White and Lyons support of this bill.

This is very important for our ability to launch the Dental Therapy program in the summer of 2021.

It will be in Williston.

Currently going through accreditation with the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Takes longer because new program.

We would be the first accredited program east of the Mississippi.

Currently 9 states have passed legislation, with several others working on it.

We have agreements to provide distance education to dental hygienists in Maine.

The costs to launch this program exceed \$2.4 million dollars from start up to the first year of operation.

Equipment, fit up, salaries, contracted services, etc.

Thus far we have successfully obtained \$1,950,000 toward this goal.

Grants from foundations, US Department of Health, and others.

We are short \$450,000 primary for equipment and fit up.

Grant sources are ready to help with operating, some equipment but not fit up and supplies and other equipment.

As we speak we are pursuing additional funding for a variety of sources.

PEW Charitable Trusts, other foundations and health funding organizations, equipment vendors, private donations.

We are currently pursuing matches from PEW and Community Catalyst:
\$150,000

Hoehl Family Foundation, application for	\$100,000
Other foundations and sources	\$100,000
This bill	\$100,000

Back up possible grants are also being pursued.

Sadly, Vermont Tech does not have the resources to do this ourselves.

Given the challenges in higher education right now, we cannot afford the risk.

This is why the grant funding we have received thus far is so critical.

We need help to bring this across the finish line.

We are looking for your support to help us get here.

Programming note: Dr. Cheyanne Warren, our Program Director for Dental Therapy recently did an guest appearance on “The Doctors” to discuss dental therapy.

It is a daytime show, 10 am on CBS I noticed from the trailer the other day.

Most of us won't see it.

It is airing sometime in the next 30-60 days, we will get a date and hopefully a link to the tape.

Very excited about the national exposure.

Others you may wish to hear from:

Michelle Faye, Voices for Vermont's Children.

Dr. Cheyanne Warren, Program Director, Vermont Tech.