

Senator Lyons and members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee,

Revised replacement for Sections 4, 5, and 6 of H.742 (draft 1.3)

In the latest draft these sections have been removed per yesterday's discussion in Senate H & W. House Health Care and House Human Services respectfully requests the following language be inserted in lieu thereof:

During a state of emergency in Vermont as a result of COVID-19, the Agency of Human Services shall consider waiving or modifying existing rules or adopting emergency rules to protect access to health care, long term services and supports, and other human services under the jurisdiction of the Agency. Such rules shall consider the importance of financial viability of providers that rely on Medicaid and other federal funds, as well as state funds for a major portion of their revenue.

The House Human Services Committee is in support of changes as requested by Commissioner Schatz during yesterday's call. The Committee also respectfully requests retaining the previous Section 17 regarding expanded capacity for nutrition services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Theresa A. M. Wood, State Representative
Bolton, Buel's Gore, Huntington, Waterbury