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**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2019 4:15 PM  
**To:** Joe Benning  
**Cc:** Scherr, David; [jlyall@acluvt.org](mailto:jlyall@acluvt.org)  
**Subject:** Proposed Language on CRCF Study in H. 543

Good afternoon Senator Benning,

I hope that this finds you well. Thank you for taking testimony last week regarding the feasibility study of the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF) included in H. 543.

At the committee's suggestion, the Network worked with the Attorney General's Office and the ACLU to draft revised study language, which you will find attached. This language includes a broader scope as requested by the group of stakeholders who submitted a joint letter to the committee last week. The Network sent this language to Commissioner Touchette and Commissioner Cole yesterday with an invitation for their input, and have not received any substantive comments regarding the draft (as of now).

We look forward to working with Senate Institutions Committee over the coming days and weeks on this issue, and would be happy to speak with the committee again if needed.

Many thanks,

Sarah

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*Uprooting the causes of violence so every last Vermonter thrives.*

(e)(1) The Department of Buildings and General Services is authorized to use the funds appropriated in subdivision (a)(4) of this section to evaluate options for the site location of a new correctional facility to replace the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility. The evaluation shall be conducted in coordination with the Department of Corrections; the Attorney General of Vermont or his or her designee; representatives of at least three (3) organizations which provide programming or services in the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility; representatives of at least three (3) organizations which provide housing or assistance to individuals

transitioning from incarceration in Vermont; a representative of the ACLU of Vermont. The evaluation shall be within the context of developing an overall strategic plan for statewide correctional facilities, including the provision of rehabilitative services and programs in the correctional setting and consideration of alternatives to incarceration and reductions in the size of Vermont's overall prison population. It shall also include conducting feasibility studies and analysis of site-specific programming as well as alternative non-incarcerative program options, site selection, purchase opportunities, and whether a new correctional facility should be a separate facility or part of a campus.

(2) On or before January 15, 2020, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, shall submit recommendations for a site location for a new correctional facility, site-specific programming and alternative non-incarcerative options to the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions, based on the evaluation described in subdivision (1) of this subsection. It is the intent of the General Assembly that when evaluating site locations and alternative non-incarcerative program options, preference shall be first given to State-owned property.

(3) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall notify the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions at least monthly of updates on the recommendation described in this subsection.