

Kate and Larry,

These are the BAA items I am recommending for Higher Education:

1. The welcome Home Scholarship funding of \$2,000,000 has not been fully expended. The \$5k scholarships have been accessed by 278 students! My recommendation- authorize the funds to carry forward until expended in the 22-23 school year.
2. A CTE Pilot that was authorized in 2019 H.533 with a \$200,000 appropriation has not been fully utilized. The study report called for in the bill was accomplished. But Covid impacted the timeline and the 'on-the-ground' test in two CTE centers was not accomplished thus \$160,000+ of funding from the original appropriation has not been spent. It was originally intended for the CTE test and can not be accessed without an action by the legislature. My recommendation is authorize the \$160,000+ of funding from the 2019 H. 533 Section 17 be utilized to complete the pilot as "intended by the legislature".
3. In the current budget we appropriated \$5,000,000 for Critical Occupation Scholarships as taught at the Vermont State Colleges. The colleges had high demand for the scholarships and over promised the funds as appropriated by \$2,350,000. Total critical occupation scholarship promised was \$7,350,000. VSC notified the administration and legislature. The solution was the VSC to temporarily use funding from other funding sources to fill the scholarship need and the state would reimburse the colleges in the BAA. I recommend we thus approve the \$2,350,000 in BAA of additional funding to reimburse the colleges.
4. In the BAA I am recommending we appropriate \$7,350,000 in ARPA funding to the VSC for a second funding round of the critical occupation scholarships for school year 22-23. This enables the VSC to have funding available during financial aid package season.
5. In the BAA I am recommending we appropriate \$1,000,000 in ARPA funding for UVM to conduct workforce training that replicates the effort as intended in H.315 from 2021. That allocation was used in 24 hours after being announced.

I look forward to being in House Education Tuesday.

Peter