

Hello Rep. Squirrel,

I know that in the coming days, House Appropriations will be looking at the Senate Budget. I wanted to reach out and let you know about two important pieces that impact domestic and sexual violence service providers across the state. First, the Senate budget includes a \$150,000 allocation of General Funds to the base funding for the 15 Member Organizations of the Vermont Network. This funding has not seen any increase since 2008 and is sorely needed. Second, the Senate budget also includes a \$200,000 allocation of ARPA funds to assist our Member Organizations in working with victims as the courts reopen. Many other justice system entities also received one-time funds for this purpose in the Senate budget.

These funds - totaling \$350,000 for the coming year – will be a very welcome but incremental step in supporting the 15 organizations which provide services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in Vermont. We appreciate your support in ensuring these funds stay in the budget and look forward to future conversations about the overall funding mechanisms for victim services in Vermont.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best,

Sarah

Sarah Robinson, M.S.W.

Deputy Director

Vermont Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence