



2/11/2022

RE: Written Testimony for Public Hearings on the Governor's Recommended FY 2023 State Budget

Dear Members of the Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations,

Vermont Foundation of Recovery supports the Governor's proposed \$4.5 million base budget investments in treatment and recovery for Vermonters with substance use disorder.

Vermonters know that what affects one part of Vermont affects us all. We need to have systems that get people to work together to solve our health and social problems like substance use disorder, as well as programs like recovery housing that prevent the factors that put people at risk for re-occurrence of their substance use disorder. The Governor's proposed investment in treatment and recovery efforts recognizes when we share responsibility for the health of our communities, this bonds our communities together and allows us to deal effectively with substance use disorder.

With a known loss of over half of the certified recovery home beds over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, now is the time for these investments.

We can think about how substance use disorder happens in the same way that faultlines sometimes result in full-blown earthquakes. Like a fault line in the earth, people's brains can develop small cracks. But just because there is a faultline doesn't mean there will be an earthquake. Faultlines are triggered by factors and experiences that turn them into earthquakes, which can do a huge amount of damage. The proposed investments in treatment and recovery are things we can do once earthquakes or substance use disorder have happened to prevent damage from happening again.

Vermont Foundation of Recovery's mission is to *create a statewide network of Recovery Homes (clean and sober living homes) to help people suffering from substance use disorder, re-assimilate into society by supporting the transitions from active use to recovery, to independent living.* VFOR supports the Governor's proposed \$4.5 million base budget investments in treatment and recovery for Vermonters with substance use disorder as a step towards supporting Vermonters in recovery.

Sincerely,

David Riegel

Executive Director, Vermont Foundation of Recovery