



St. Johnsbury School District
161 Western Avenue, Suite 2, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Dr. Brian G. Ricca, Superintendent



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February 1, 2021

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To the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs,

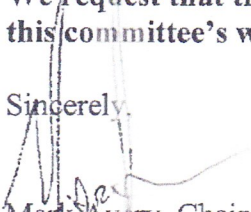
We are writing to you to ask for your support for H.63 as you consider health care benefits for educators in Vermont. It balances appropriate access to medical benefits at a reasonable cost. Please consider the following data from the St. Johnsbury School District:


- In the budget we are preparing for FY22 \$1,061,376.00 is dedicated to health care. This represents 4.5% of our total budget and that number has been climbing by approximately .5% in the past three years.
- In the proposed FY22 budget, health care represents 13% of the overall increase.
- Finally, the cost of healthcare is approximately 58% of the compensation for our teachers and our support staff. 58% represents an average of the two employee groups.

None of these numbers are sustainable. We ask for you to thoughtfully consider H.63 as a reasonable way to meet the needs for health care in a manner that is mindful of the impact of costs to our education system.

We request that the letter be entered into the written testimony of this committee on H.81 and posted to this committee's website.

Sincerely,


Mark Avery, Chair
Board of School Directors


Dr. Brian G. Ricca
Superintendent of Schools

Every child who walks through our doors will leave prepared to realize their dreams for the future.