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HOUSING, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MEMORANDUM

From: Tom Stevens
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 11:58 AM
To: Mary Hooper
Cc: Kimberly Jessup, Theresa Utton-Jerman
Subject: General, Housing and Military Affairs Response to BAA

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony with the Appropriations Committee and for the opportunity to share our thoughts on the BAA proposal.

- 1) Re Body Cameras: The Committee supports the proposal in the BAA, with some reservations about the expected planned obsolescence of the equipment and the need to purchase new so soon.
- 2) Re Vermont Legal Aid: The Committee supports the increase in funding to Vermont Legal Aid for the reasons stated in the BAA.
- 3) Re VSHA and CRF: The Committee understands that provisions outlined in S.36 may be considered for the BAA. If this is the case, the Committee supports the appropriation of \$2.8 million to VSHA to allow for payment of rental arrearages for applications based on CRF criteria that were approved but unfunded. This crucial need should be funded as soon as possible, and considered separately from the use of the ERA funds.
- 4) ERA funds: The Committee supports the notion of getting funds to ACCD/DHCD/VSHA as soon as practicable, but we are uncertain as to the process, and thus cannot offer complete support. We feel it is important to have funds available soon, as well as for an understanding of the parameters for use, which we do not have at this time. If the Appropriations Committee is allowed to determine a level of funding at this time, we would ask that the highest level of funding be determined, and ask that the clarity of understanding include more funding for partner organizations for a continuation of the adjacent support services they provided.

Thank you. Please feel free to reach out to us for further clarification.

Best,

Rep. Tom Stevens
Chair

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General, Housing and Military Affairs