

From: Peter Conlon <PConlon@leg.state.vt.us>
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 8:43 AM
To: Robin Scheu <RScheu@leg.state.vt.us>, Diane Lanpher <DLanpher@leg.state.vt.us>, Marc B. Mihaly <MMihaly@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Erin Brady <EBrady@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: More BAA from House Ed

Afterschool - House Ed is concerned that the proposed language will leave the AOE vulnerable to funding after school programs that discriminate against children in certain protected classes. We will investigate additional safeguards, while acknowledging any refusal to fund such a program will likely prompt a lawsuit. During testimony, Sec. Bouchey said that AOE would administer the awarding of grants, not an outside organization. HEC believes this is important to assure. Last year, the Legislature added two positions to AOE to assist with afterschool grantmaking and data gathering, and we believe AOE is best suited to handle this work.

Also, HEC reviewed other carry -forwards and reversions. While we have no objections, we ask House Appropriations to help keep careful track of additional expenditures "off the top of the Ed Fund." For BAA, we would point out the additional \$1million to assist with the implementation of the Cognia assessment tool. This is the first time we have seen such an expense flowing from the Ed Fund rather than from Federal Funds. We understand that federal allocations have not kept pace with the cost of assessment, especially when transitioning from one system to another, however we are concerned about the precedent of these costs coming from the Ed Fund, even if there is an offset due to the failed e-Finance implementation.

Sincerely,
Peter

*Rep. Peter Conlon
Cornwall, Goshen, Leicester, Ripton, Salisbury
Chair, House Education Committee*

From: Peter Conlon <PConlon@leg.state.vt.us>
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 1:19 PM
To: Robin Scheu <RScheu@leg.state.vt.us>, Diane Lanpher <DLanpher@leg.state.vt.us>, Marc B. Mihaly <MMihaly@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Erin Brady <EBrady@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: ANR PCB testing and remediation re. BAA

Dear Diane, Robin and Marc -

The ANR has proposed a plan to be included in the BAA that would fund PCB testing in schools through June 2025 using their own funds and those previously

appropriated, as well as money set aside in the education fund for short-term remediation.

House Education is not going to stand in the way of this proposal, but wants to make abundantly clear that none of this funding is for the long-term removal of PCBs from a school building, which is required by the EPA once detected in the state's program. The Administration has proposed nothing to fund this long-term obligation, turning it into a huge unfunded mandate that will ultimately fall on property taxpayers to pay. ANR has essentially said that it is "working with EPA" to remove the four-year deadline to remove PCB-containing materials, but has no assurances whatsoever that EPA is on board. So the prospect that schools will be required to do full abatement (removal) of PCBs years ahead of a major renovation project when it could be done then remains a real possibility.

It should also be noted that at the conclusion of June 2025, there will still be 180 untested schools. The Administration has no plan or proposal at this time to test these schools, or for the likely remediation costs.

Sincerely,
Peter

Rep. Peter Conlon
Cornwall, Goshen, Leicester, Ripton, Salisbury
Chair, House Education Committee

From: Peter Conlon <PConlon@leg.state.vt.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:53 AM
To: Robin Scheu <RScheu@leg.state.vt.us>; Diane Lanpher <DLanpher@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: BAA - Adult Ed

Diane and Robin -

House Ed supports the request for the \$500K from the BAA for the Adult Education programs. House Ed strongly supported the FY 24 request for \$1.5 million, and this third of the funding, which was not appropriated, should be as part of BAA. We see these programs as vital to preparing non-traditional learners, New Americans and many more to be ready to join and improve Vermont's workforce and to be productive and contributing members of our state.

Thank you,
Peter

Rep. Peter Conlon
Cornwall, Goshen, Leicester, Ripton, Salisbury
Chair, House Education Committee