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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL AND
HOUSING

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MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Diane Lanpher, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
From: Rep. Tom Stevens, Chair, House Committee on General and Housing
Date: February 23, 2024
Subject: Provisions in the Governor's Proposed FY 2025 Budget

Thank you for the opportunity to review the provisions of the Governor's Proposed FY 2025 State Budget that relate to this Committee's subject areas. We have divided our subject areas in order to streamline our comments about these priorities.

HOUSING

H.829

General & Housing is in the process of developing H.829, which will contain multiple appropriations. The Committee is aware of the expected limitations of the global budget funds, but is taking this opportunity to address the extraordinary needs during this housing crisis. We have chosen to provide our best estimates of a complete appropriation as requested, with the expectation that a lower amount will decrease the chances of fulfilling the visions in the policy sections of the bill. This letter focusses on the construction and provision of housing, rather than the extraordinary service needs to accompany a successful housing program.

H.829 may contain language supporting the appropriation of funds (as below) to VHCB, to the VHIP programming, to the VHFA middle income housing initiative and the VHFA first generation homeownership grant program, to the eviction prevention programs passed in Act 47 of 2023, and to the mobile home improvement and repair program. Also listed below are programs that are not in H.829 as of yet, but which the Committee supports: funding for housing for those with developmental disabilities and recovery residences.

The first six programs listed below are part of the vision that will be expressed in H.829. First discussed in the document prepared by Chris Donnelly on behalf of the Housing and Homelessness Alliance of Vermont, the framework for a 10-year plan to build out enough housing, coupled with right-sized services, would alleviate our low- and middle-income housing needs. We received testimony on the last four projects and the committee supports them.

PROGRAM	AMOUNT
VHCB	\$110,000,000
VHFA MIDDLE INCOME	\$25,000,000
VHFA FIRST GENERATION HOMEOWNER	\$1,000,000
ACT 47 EVICTION PREVENTION	\$3,900,000
VHIP	\$5,000,000
MHIR	\$3,000,000
HEALTHY HOMES	\$4,000,000
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES	\$10,200,000
RECOVERY RESIDENCES	\$1,500,000
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY (ONE YEAR)	\$100,000

SOCIAL EQUITY

Appropriations for the following programs were not included in the Governor's Budget. The Committee has strongly supported these programs from their inception in this committee, and has expressed strong support for their funding: the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Land Access and Opportunity Board, and the Human Rights Commission (H.725).

PROGRAM	AMOUNT
TRC	\$1,100,000
LAOB	\$1,970,000
HRC	\$350,000

OTHER

PROGRAM	AMOUNT
SASH FOR ALL	\$300,000
PATHWAYS	VARIABLE DEPENDING ON GROWTH CHOSEN

* * * Conclusion * * *

This memorandum is necessarily incomplete, as potential budget requests cannot be made quite yet. Policy is still being developed and may be contained in bills coming over from the Senate. We are still working on study committees and other bills that we are looking to pass prior to crossover, and we will keep you up-to-date on their progress. The Committee expressed general support for the programming; however, consensus was not reached on the appropriation amounts suggested.

With respect,



Rep. Tom Stevens
Chair, General & Housing