



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Representative Diane Lanpher, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations  
From: Representative Lori Houghton, Chair, House Committee on Health Care  
Date: January 17, 2024  
Subject: House Committee on Health Care FY 2024 Budget Adjustment Recommendations

The House Committee on Health Care appreciates the opportunity to review and provide recommendations to the House Committee on Appropriations on the Governor's fiscal year 2024 budget adjustment proposals, as well as two other health care-related requests that our Committee has received.

The House Committee on Health Care supported the following on a vote of 10-0-1:

- the Governor's recommended budget adjustment for the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA);
- the Governor's recommended budget adjustment for the Department of Mental Health (DMH);
- a request from the VNAs of Vermont to add \$261,083 General Fund (\$600,467 gross) to the DVHA budget in Sec. B.307 to increase skilled home health reimbursement rates to 100 percent of the Medicare fee-for-service fee schedule known as the Low Utilization Payment Adjustment<sup>1</sup>; and
- a request from the Howard Center for \$166,000 in one-time funding to support the Center's Cultural Liaison program, which serves members of Vermont's immigrant, refugee, and asylee communities through liaisons from three different resettled communities and which places a particular emphasis on mental health and suicide prevention.<sup>2</sup>

In addition, Representative Berbeco and I have both reviewed the language in the Governor's proposals that is relevant to the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Health Care, and we do not have any concerns with it.

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<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/WorkGroups/House%20Health%20Care/FY2024%20Budget%20Adjustment/W~Jill%20Mazza%20Olson~VNAs%20of%20Vermont%20-%20Budget%20Adjustment%20Request~1-9-2024.pdf>

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<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/WorkGroups/House%20Health%20Care/FY2024%20Budget%20Adjustment/W~Julia%20Paradiso~Howard%20Center%20Cultural%20Liaison%20Program%20-%20Budget%20Adjustment%20Request~1-11-2024.pdf>