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**STATE OF VERMONT**  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Department of Justice  
Bureau of Justice Statistics  
810 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20531  
March 31, 2023

Re: 2023 State Justice Statistics Program for Statistical Analysis Centers  
CFDA # 16.550

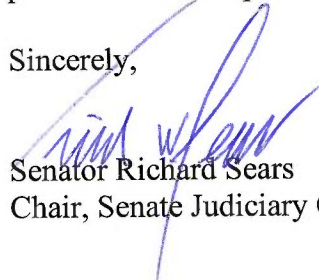
The Vermont Senate and House Judiciary Committees fully support the Vermont Statistical Analysis Centers' BJS 2023 Special Emphasis Project: Criminal Justice Investment and Trends Report. The Vermont Legislature recognizes the importance of establishing a process to collect and analyze criminal justice data to inform future policy and investments.

For over a decade, the Vermont Legislature has enacted policy and funding reforms in the State's criminal justice system. Many of these reforms were data driven. However, there has been little in-depth analysis at a systemic level to tell us if these reforms are leading Vermont in the intended direction. As we consider our future criminal justice system, it is incumbent upon our body to take a holistic view of the data to better inform our decisions.

We selected the SAC to complete this report because they are the entity in this State in the best position to collect, analyze, and report back information at this level. The Legislature has relied on the SAC to provide high quality analysis and technical assistance since SAC's inception. The SAC regularly provides objective, accurate, and timely information that is relevant to important public policy issues in Vermont.

We firmly believe the public interest and public safety will be positively impacted by this project. We fully support this grant project and look forward to receiving the data and findings presented in the report.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Richard Sears  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

  
Representative Martin LaLonde  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee