



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE JUSTICE  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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December 17, 2024

Hon. Jill Krowinski  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Vermont House of Representatives

Hon. Philip Baruth  
President Pro Tempore  
Vermont Senate

Vermont General Assembly  
Vermont State House  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Speaker Krowinski and President Pro Tem Baruth:

During the 2024 legislative interim, the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee ("Committee") identified several issues that need further attention during the upcoming legislative session. With that in mind, the Committee respectfully requests that you consult with the appropriate standing committees of jurisdiction to encourage examination of the following topics:

1. The status of the forthcoming juvenile facility, specifically the timeline to construct the facility and for it to be operational, including any municipal zoning exemptions that may need to be implemented in exchange for siting the facility at the State's preferred location;
2. The Department of Vermont Health Access operating correctional healthcare rather than the Department of Corrections contracting with a third-party provider;
3. Any appropriations or distribution of State funds needed to ensure broadband access at Department of Corrections' facilities;
4. Requiring that the Department of Corrections' central office organize regular meetings with facility superintendents to monitor and quickly address staffing and facility conditions; and

5. The Vermont State Employees Association and the Department of Corrections collaborate with the committees overseeing government operations to address staffing and recruiting issues.

Thank you for considering the above-listed topics for review during the upcoming legislative session. Please let the Committee know if there are any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Alice M. Emmons, Chair  
Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee