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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
Senate Committee on Judiciary
House Committee on Corrections and Institutions
House Committee on Health Care
House Committee on Human Services

From: Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee

Date: October 26, 2023

Subject: Health Care in Vermont's Correctional Facilities

During the 2023 interim, the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee (the "Committee") held hearings on the status of Vermont's correctional health care system. Specifically, the Committee examined the scope of health and mental health services offered to persons housed in Vermont's correctional facilities. This examination included testimony from the Vermont Department of Corrections (the "Department") and Wellpath, LLC, the health services provider for the Department. Additionally, the Department presented a prospective five-year cost estimate of a State-run correctional health care system in lieu of the current system.

As a result of the testimony and presentations, the Committee respectfully requests that your committees of jurisdiction engage in a holistic review of the State's correctional health care system with a particular focus on the scope, quality, and costs of the mental health and substance use and abuse services that are provided to persons receiving such services in Vermont's correctional facilities.