



**Office of the Health Care Advocate**  
264 North Winooski Ave., Burlington VT 05401  
Toll Free Hotline: 800-917-7787  
www.vtlawhelp.org/health ■ Fax: 802-863-7152

March 13, 2024

Re: Office of the Health Care Advocate (HCA) Recommendation for S.183

Dear Chair Hardy and Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations:

Please see attached recommendation from the HCA to S.183:

Sec. 1. REENVISIONING THE AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES;

REPORT

(a) The Secretary of Human Services, in collaboration with the Deputy Secretary of Human Services and the commissioner of each department within the Agency of Human Services and in consultation with the Office of the Health Care Advocate; the Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate; Disability Rights Vermont; the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman; and other relevant stakeholders, shall evaluate the current structure of the agency and develop recommendations to address of the current needs of Vermonters. Recommendations may call for a ~~either for~~ restructuring of the existing Agency of Human Services, ~~or for~~ dividing the existing Agency of Human Services into two separate agencies or any other warranted recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

s\ Mike Fisher, Chief Health Care Advocate

s\ Sam Peisch, Health Policy Analyst