



Appropriations BAA Testimony

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Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Emma Paradis, and I represent Common Good Vermont, a statewide program of United Way of Northwest Vermont dedicated to uniting, strengthening and advocating for Vermont's nonprofit sector.

I want to acknowledge the reality you're facing: Vermont has many competing priorities right now. **That's why this proposal is about managing chaos, not adding to it.**

Federal policy changes and funding uncertainty are already rippling through Vermont's nonprofit sector. These organizations employ one in five Vermont workers and deliver essential services that keep our communities and economy functioning. **When nonprofits falter, the State feels it immediately: layoffs, service disruptions, and emergency interventions that cost more and help fewer people.**

Our proposal, endorsed by 60+ nonprofits, requests **\$295,665 in one-time funding through the BAA** to provide technical assistance to nonprofits navigating federal impacts, including planning for major funding swings, adapting business models, and—where necessary—supporting mergers, consolidations, or orderly wind-downs to protect clients, workers, and public investments. This proposal speaks specifically to the funds set aside last year for federal impacts in Act 27 (Section B.1101(b)(4)). We also request **\$267,777 in base funding** to strengthen financial management and compliance for organizations with state grants, reducing risk for both nonprofits and the State.

This is not about preserving the status quo. It's about ensuring transitions are managed responsibly, services remain stable, and public dollars are used efficiently rather than in crisis mode. When nonprofits fail, families lose access to childcare, housing, and health care—costs that ripple through the economy and land on the State. With foresight, we can avoid service gaps, protect jobs, and prevent larger costs from landing on the State later.

In short: this is an investment in preparedness. It aligns with recommendations from the Treasurer's Task Force on the Federal Transition and gives Vermont a way to manage change deliberately, rather than react to disruption after the fact.

Thank you for considering this proposal and please see submitted materials for more information.