



PEOPLE'S HEALTH & WELLNESS CLINIC

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Thursday, February 12, 2026

Dear Members of the House and Senate
Appropriations Committee,

Good afternoon. My name is Dr. Allan Ramsay, and I live in Colchester, VT. I am a retired family physician with more than fifty years of practice experience. I volunteered for many years at the People's Health and Wellness Clinic, including serving as Medical Director. I currently serve on the clinic's Board of Directors. I am pleased to submit testimony in support of Vermont's Free and Referral Clinics and their FY2027 funding request.

I respectfully urge the Legislature to increase the maximum value of the State grant to Vermont's Free and Referral Clinics by \$925,000. This increase is necessary to continue providing essential healthcare services to Vermonters who lack insurance and to prepare for growing demand as individuals lose access to coverage. The request includes \$462,500 in additional state general funds, leveraged by a 50 percent federal Medicaid match.

Throughout my career, and particularly during my time volunteering in the free clinic setting, I witnessed the consequences of delayed or denied care. Patients often postponed treatment because they could not navigate insurance systems or afford out-of-pocket costs. Vermont's Free and Referral Clinics provide a critical alternative—care that is truly free, timely, and focused on the whole person.

Free and Referral Clinics also strengthen Vermont's healthcare system as a whole. By providing early, preventative, and primary care services, these clinics help reduce avoidable emergency room visits and hospitalizations. This not only improves patient outcomes, but it also helps control healthcare costs across the system. Supporting VFRC is a smart investment that improves access to care while helping sustain Vermont's broader healthcare infrastructure.

When people seek care in an overwhelmed healthcare system, rejection and delay become routine. VFRC clinics remove those barriers by offering care without insurance billing, payment plans, or complex eligibility requirements. This approach improves health outcomes while preserving dignity and trust.

As demand for services continues to rise, maintaining and expanding this safety net is essential. **I strongly urge you to increase the maximum value of the State grant by \$925,000 in the FY2027 budget.**

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this request.

*Dr. Allan Ramsay
Board Member
People's Health and Wellness Clinic
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