

Legislative Committee Letter of Support for CCV CEDAR Center Proposal

[Insert Date]

To the Ascendum Foundation Grant Review Committee,

We write jointly, as the Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members of the Vermont House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, to express strong support for the Community College of Vermont's proposal to establish the Corrections Education, Development, and Re-entry (CEDAR) Center and for its request for multi-year funding to advance this work.

Both committees recently convened a joint hearing to receive testimony from the Community College of Vermont regarding the outcomes of its corrections education programming. The testimony reflected a program that is serious, effective, and grounded in measurable outcomes. Members across both committees engaged substantively with the presentation and expressed clear respect for the impact this work is having on rehabilitation, workforce readiness, and long-term public benefit.

The proposed CEDAR Center represents a thoughtful and credible expansion of a model that is already delivering meaningful results for Vermont. Its focus on expanding access to postsecondary education for incarcerated Vermonters, strengthening re-entry supports, and creating clear pathways to bachelor's degrees aligns directly with Vermont's priorities related to public safety, workforce development, and economic mobility. The proposed components, including dedicated navigators, coordinated 2+2 bachelor degree pathways with Vermont State University, transition-focused coursework, and an external economic evaluation, reflect rigor, intentionality, and accountability.

We are particularly encouraged by the program's demonstrated reach and engagement. As of Fall 2025, more than ten percent of Vermont's sentenced population is enrolled as CCV students, representing the highest participation rate of any statewide correctional postsecondary program in the country. That level of participation speaks to the credibility of the program within correctional settings and to its relevance for the individuals it serves.

From both a corrections policy perspective and a workforce and economic development perspective, this work reflects the type of upstream investment that strengthens individual outcomes, supports safer communities, and contributes to a more prepared workforce for Vermont's future.

We offer this letter as a formal expression of support from committee leadership and participating members, in recognition of the demonstrated impact of CCV's corrections education program and the promise of the CEDAR Center proposal.

Respectfully,

Representative Alice Emmons

Chair, House Committee on Corrections and Institutions

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative James Gregoire

Vice Chair, House Committee on Corrections and Institutions

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Michael Marcotte

Chair, House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Edye Graning

Vice Chair, House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Members:

Representative Troy Headrick

Ranking Member, House Committee on Corrections and Institutions

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Conor Casey

House Committee on Corrections and Institutions

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Gina Galfetti

House Committee on Corrections and Institutions

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Will Greer

House Committee on Corrections and Institutions

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Joe Luneau

House Committee on Corrections and Institutions

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Brian Minier  
House Committee on Corrections and Institutions  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Mary Morrissey  
House Committee on Corrections and Institutions  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Shawn Sweeney  
Clerk, House Committee on Corrections and Institutions  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Kevin Winter  
House Committee on Corrections and Institutions  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Kirk White  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Dave Bosch  
House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Michael Boutin  
House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Emily Carris Duncan  
House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Jonathan Cooper  
House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Abbey Duke  
House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Tony Micklus  
House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Herb Olson  
House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Monique Priestly  
Clerk, House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_