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Agency of Human Services

March 13, 2026

House Committee on Health Care
The Honorable Alyssa Black, *Chair*
Vermont House of Representatives
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

RE: AHS follow up written testimony regarding H. 583 (An act relating to health care financial transactions and clinical decision making)

Dear Chair Black and members of the House Committee on Health Care:

The Agency of Human Services (AHS) appreciates the opportunity to provide further feedback on H.583 (An act relating to clinical decision making). Following our previous testimony dated March 9, 2026, we have reviewed the updated language in Draft 2.6. We would like to express our appreciation for the significant changes reflected in this version, which address the most critical concerns outlined in our earlier memo.

AHS will need additional time to review the implications to the Agency and the systems before providing a comprehensive assessment, but we believe Draft 2.6 represents a much more balanced approach to the clinical independence we collectively value. We look forward to continuing to work with the legislature on H. 583 and anticipate providing recommendations for additional refinements of the bill to the legislature as it moves.

Sincerely,

Jill Bowen, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living

Emily Hawes, LADC
Commissioner of Mental Health

Rick Hildebrant, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

