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MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Robin Scheu, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations

From: Representative Alyssa Black, Chair, House Committee on Health Care

Date: January 15, 2026

Subject: House Committee on Health Care FY 2026 Budget Adjustment Recommendations

The House Committee on Health Care appreciates the opportunity to review and provide recommendations to the House Committee on Appropriations on the Governor's fiscal year 2026 budget adjustment proposals. The Committee supports the health care-related provisions in the Governor's recommended budget adjustment act. The Committee would like to register our concern, however, about a new appropriation for the Department of Vermont Health Access to lease space as part of the Governor's return-to-office initiative being included in the budget adjustment act rather than in the fiscal year 2027 budget. The Committee believes that both the initiative and related funding should have been proposed in the fiscal year 2027 budget to give the General Assembly an opportunity to evaluate the policy proposal and its funding needs, rather than the Administration committing to a policy outside the legislative session and then expecting the General Assembly to provide an appropriation after the lease contracts had already been signed.

In addition to the Governor's budget adjustment proposals, the Committee on Health Care and the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry both recommend providing an appropriation of \$167,700 to support Bridges to Health in transitioning from its current home at the University of Vermont Extension to a new partnership with Vermont's Free & Referral Clinics. Bridges to Health provides health programming to migrant and immigrant workers and families who live in Vermont, are not otherwise supported by State or federal programs, and face barriers to health care.