

Date: February 17, 2026  
To: Chair Alyssa Black and Member of House Health Care Committee  
From: HealthFirst, Susan Ridzon, Executive Director, [sr@vermonthealthfirst.org](mailto:sr@vermonthealthfirst.org)  
Re: FY 2027 Budget Request

---

Thank you for your continued hard work in these challenging times. On behalf of the medical professionals working at 66 independent medical practices across Vermont, we submit this testimony regarding the State's 2027 fiscal year budget.

In short, we agree strongly with each of the asks outlined by Vermont Medical Society as illustrated in their [graphic](#). As you know, Vermont's healthcare system is facing significant headwinds and ambiguity. Continued investment is essential for the system to be able to meet the growing healthcare needs of Vermonters. This is particularly true for primary care, which already operates on very thin margins and struggles with workforce shortages.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter!