



To: The Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations
From: Aiden Otterman, Youth Voice Committee Chair, Vermont State Youth Council,
Aiden.Otterman@VTStateYouthCouncil.Org
Date: February 20, 2025
Re: FY 2026 Budget

Good evening, my name is Aiden Otterman. I am from West Topsham, VT, and I am the Chair of the Youth Voice Committee for the Vermont State Youth Council. I am here today to request that the House and Senate Appropriations Committees ensure there is funding to support the Vermont State Youth Council in the fiscal year 2026. The Vermont State Youth Council has been a key player in giving a voice to the youth of our great state. The council itself is still in its infancy, and we believe that we have many years of hard work representing youth ahead of us. But without funding, that future is destitute. And without that future, around 24% of the population would lose their voice in state government. It is important that the Council has the funding it needs to function as a platform for youth civic engagement, and I ask that you please ensure there is funding for the Vermont State Youth Council in the fiscal year 2026. Thank you.