

I am writing today to request an amendment to H.660.

Both H.660 and the budget do not include any funding for substance use treatment. There is \$3.6 million in H.660 for recovery residences and recovery centers. While we wholeheartedly support the need for funding for recovery, it is important to not lose sight of the fact that treatment is essential for the path to recovery. In addition, the Agency of Human Services recently put out an RFP through the RHTG for Level 2 and 3 recovery residences, so there is an intent to provide additional substantial funding to those recovery residences.

As such, we are requesting that your committee include in H.660 some funding for substance use treatment. Without increasing the bottom line of H.660, one suggestion that we have for your consideration is splitting the \$1,200,000 million appropriation in (6) as follows:

(6) \$1,200,000.00 **\$600,000** to the Department of Health for the creation of new recovery residence beds at National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) certification level III **or above** (*note that there does not exist in Vermont a level 4 certified program at this time*)

(X) \$600,000 to the Department of Health for substance use residential treatment beds at American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) level 3.1

Thank you for your consideration,

Chadd

Chadd Viger, MS, LADC
CEO, Recovery House Inc.