

Date: April 22, 2025

To: Senator Virginia Lyons, Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

Re: Distilling Provider Concerns with Bill H.91

Dear Chair Lyons and Members of the Committee,

We appreciate that your Committee is eager to move substantive changes through bill H.91. On behalf of the following community-based organizations providing emergency shelter and essential services to Vermonters experiencing homelessness, we wish to present our top concerns in a unified voice.

We, the undersigned state shelter providers, see opportunities to improve on the GA delivery model. However, we are unable to advocate for the current version of H.91 which undermines an existing HOP network providing shelter and essential services to so many Vermonters. The HOP program must be removed from H.91's concept for re-designing General Assistance.

We understand H.91 is a complicated bill and welcome opportunities to testify if the committee would like.

Sincerely,

Angus Chaney, Executive Director, Homeless Prevention Center

Jonathan Farrell, Executive Director, COTS

Julie Bond, Executive Director, Good Samaritan Haven

Kim Anetsberger, Executive Director, Lamoille Community House

Libby Bennett, Executive Director, Groundworks Collaborative

Michael Redmond, Executive Director, Upper Valley Haven

Constance S. Anderson, Executive Director, Northeast Kingdom Youth Services

Susan Whitmore, Executive Director, John Graham Housing & Services

Lee Trapeni, Executive Director, Springfield Supported Housing Program

Jeanne L. Montross, Executive Director, HOPE

Heidi Lacey, Executive Director, Charter House Coalition

*Roxanne M. Carelli, Executive Director of Operational Development and Shelter Services,
Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless*

*Karissa L. Myers, Executive Director of Communications and Outreach Services
Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless*

Mark Redmond, Executive Director, Spectrum Youth and Family Services