

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate
3 Resolution No. 16 entitled “Senate resolution opposing recent federal actions
4 that threaten public health and urging their swift reversal” respectfully reports
5 that it has considered the same and recommends that the resolution be
6 amended by striking out all after the title and inserting in lieu thereof the
7 following:

8 *Whereas*, on January 20, 2025, President Donald J. Trump issued an
9 Executive Order to withdraw the United States from the World Health
10 Organization (WHO), a move that may jeopardize the health and well-being of
11 Vermonters, other Americans, and individuals all around the world because of
12 the WHO’s focus on improving public health and on detecting, preventing, and
13 responding to health emergencies, including disease outbreaks that do not
14 respect state lines or international borders, and

15 *Whereas*, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is eliminating
16 the jobs of approximately 20,000 employees, including at the Centers for
17 Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where teams were cut whose work
18 focused on preventing injuries and violence from causes including motor
19 vehicle crashes, child maltreatment, and traumatic brain injury; on tracking
20 trends in mental health and substance use disorders; on rape prevention and
21 education; on maternal mortality and maternal and child health; and on many

1 other areas affecting public health in Vermont, the United States, and beyond,
2 and

3 *Whereas*, the Trump Administration has eliminated the entire management
4 and regulations divisions at the Center for Tobacco Products in the Food and
5 Drug Administration and cut most of the staff at the Office on Smoking and
6 Health at the CDC, which severely hampers tobacco regulation and
7 enforcement efforts and will have a negative impact on tobacco prevention in
8 Vermont’s youth and on Vermonters’ public health, and

9 *Whereas*, the National Institutes of Health, a part of the U.S. Department of
10 Health and Human Services that describes itself as “the nation’s medical
11 research agency — making important discoveries that improve health and save
12 lives,” is now refusing to award grant funds to universities that operate any
13 programs that advance or promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, which
14 jeopardizes the future of medical research and disregards the existence of
15 health inequities, and

16 *Whereas*, the U.S. Department of Education cut approximately
17 \$1 billion in federal grants that support critical mental health services in
18 schools, which will dramatically reduce access to these services and threatens
19 the health and well-being of youth around the country, and

1 *Whereas*, it appears that the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and
2 Human Services disregards certain science and scientific research, including
3 peer-reviewed research regarding vaccines and autism, *now therefore be it*

4 ***Resolved by the Senate:***

5 That the Senate of the State of Vermont stands in support of science,
6 opposes these federal actions, and urges their swift reversal, *and be it further*

7 ***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of
8 this resolution to President Donald J. Trump, Secretary of Health and Human
9 Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

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18 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE