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**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Dear Senator Lyons and Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee,

The Office of the Health Care Advocate (HCA) respectfully requests that the Senate Health and Welfare Committee recommend the following appropriations:

1. **Sec. B.307 \$415,766 QMB:** appropriating \$416,766 from the General Fund in SFY26 in section B.307 to align Vermont's Medicare Savings Program "QMB" and the federal Low-Income Subsidy (LIS). This appropriation will result in significant operational efficiencies for state government and deliver over \$16.6 million dollars in annual savings and benefits for Vermonters. This investment would result in nearly a 40X return to Vermonters to help improve affordability.
2. **VDH \$515,000 for Bridges to Health:** We also recommend support for the Bridges to Health Program with a one-time appropriation of \$515,000 to maintain this essential program for a particularly vulnerable group of Vermonters who are ineligible for many of Vermont's health care programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Fisher

Chief Health Care Advocate

Office of the Health Care Advocate