



STATE OF VERMONT
SENATE CHAMBER

October 18, 2019

Mike Smith, Secretary (incoming)
Martha Maksym, Deputy Secretary
Agency of Human Services
280 State Drive
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1000

Dear Secretary Smith and Deputy Secretary Maksym:

As you know, the Vermont General Assembly has pursued legislation that sets Vermont on a path to health care reform that is intended to contain the growth in health care costs, promote high-quality health care services, and ensure that Vermonters have access to the services they need. We have embraced payment- and delivery system reforms that move away from a fee-for-service system and toward value-based payments, with a particular emphasis on access to primary care.

The Health Reform Oversight Committee is aware of recent correspondence between Chair Mullin and Governor Scott relating to the affordability of health care in Vermont, the rollout of the All-Payer ACO Model, and the potential impact of the Medicaid and Medicare cost shift on both. We have also been informed that OneCare Vermont's FY2020 budget submission to the Green Mountain Care Board includes \$13.1 million of "State Support" for "Healthcare Reform Investments." These issues can have serious policy and fiscal implications for Vermonters and the State. We need some information from you in order to evaluate certain of the positions, recommendations, and proposals from Chair Mullin's letter and OneCare Vermont's budget submission.

Specifically, can you explain whether and how the Medicaid funding increase recommendations in Chair Mullin's August 23, 2019 letter and OneCare Vermont's FY2020 budget request for an additional \$13.1 million in "State Support" for "Healthcare Reform Investments" fit within Vermont's Global Commitment budget neutrality cap?

Thank you for your prompt attention to our question. We would like to receive your response no later than Monday, October 28, 2019 to allow the members of the Health Reform Oversight Committee to review the information in advance of the Committee's November 4, 2019 meeting. We look forward to reviewing the information you provide and to a continuing dialogue on these issues.

Sincerely,

/s/Senator Ann Cummings

/s/Senator Jane Kitchel

/s/Senator Ginny Lyons

/s/Senator Richard Westman

cc: Representative Janet Ancel
Representative Bill Lippert
Representative Ann Pugh
Representative Kitty Toll
Governor Phil Scott
Kevin Mullin, Chair, GMCB
Victoria Loner, CEO/COO, OneCare Vermont