

November 6, 2020

Sen. Ann Cummings, Chair  
Joint Fiscal Committee

Sent via e-mail: [acummings@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:acummings@leg.state.vt.us)

Dear Chair Cummings:

On behalf of Vermont's hospitals, the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems is updating this committee on the current financial status of hospitals and its position on the administration's proposal to allocate \$81 million from the Health Care Provider Sustainability Fund to other sectors impacted by COVID-19.

Thank you for creating the Health Care Provider Sustainability Fund. The fund has provided support and predictability for many hospitals. Due to this fund and the federal Provider Relief Fund, Vermont's hospitals are relatively financially stable at this time.

As hospitals face flu season and increased COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, we are concerned that a surge in cases or limitations on health care procedures will erode our current financial stability going into the next calendar year. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that hospitals would know the full impact until after the federal deadline of December 30<sup>th</sup>. As a result, transferring \$81 million out of the Health Care Provider Relief Fund to other areas impacted by COVID-19 would likely maximize federal dollars.

Should a surge occur in the upcoming months, VAHHS hopes that the legislature and the administration will continue to work together to financially support hospitals so that they may care for their communities during these challenging times.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,



Devon Green  
Vice President, Government Relations  
Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems

Cc: Rep. Bill Lippert  
Steve Klein