

**Theresa Utton**

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**Subject:** FW: Proposed cuts to Mental Health

**From:** "Virginia I. Jenks"

**Date:** August 13, 2014 at 7:42:31 AM EDT

**Subject: Proposed cuts to Mental Health**

Dear Ms. Heath, Chair Committee on Appropriations.

I am the Vermont mother of a son with a severe mental illness. For over 20 years he has received excellent services from HCRS for which our family is very grateful. Also, I'm very honored and proud to be a long serving board member of HCRS. HCRS "envisions a community where people are inspired, empowered and supported to lead healthy and meaningful lives." The same goals most of us have for our children.

As you know when a person with mental illness or developmental disability or drug and alcohol addiction the whole family struggles and their struggle has a profound affect on society. HCRS strives to offer quality care for a population that cannot advocate for themselves. I have witnessed first hand the results in quality of our son's life because of the dedication and hard work of the HCRS staff.

As a parent, a Vermonter and a Board Member I hope you will set an example for the county and help continue to support other Vermont sons and daughters and give HCRS the funds it needs in this time of transition to hire and keep quality personnel and programs. It is vital for our communities' health for HCRS to be able to give quality services in times of crisis and support clients and families with their life long journey with a developmental disability or a mental illness.

Let's enable HCRS with the tools to be "Simply the BEST". We have worked to hard and have moved Mental Health Care into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Vermonters are counting on you to not stumble and set us back a generation.

Sincerely,

Virginia I. Jenks

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