

Rep. William J. Lippert
Chairman, House Committee on Health Care

Dear Chairman Lippert and Committee Members:

We would like to thank you and your committee for taking the time to review the Department of Mental Health's proposal to replace its Therapeutic Community Residence currently located in Middlesex, Vermont. Having a secure residential program is essential to address the needs of individuals who no longer meet the strict criteria for continued psychiatric hospitalization, but unfortunately continue to pose a risk to the public due to their particular clinical needs.

In addition to acting as a safeguard for the general public, its residents will receive structured support that will aid in the safe and successful transition back into their communities. Further, it will help with the availability of much needed psychiatric hospital beds so that people in need of inpatient care will not have to experience long waiting periods in our hospitals' emergency department.

Thank you for allowing us to provide input on this very important issue and thank you for your continued public service.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Barrett
State's Attorney
Orleans County

Sarah George
State's Attorney
Chittenden County

Douglas E. DiSabito
State's Attorney
Grand Isle County

Ward Goodenough
State's Attorney
Windsor County

Jim Hughes
State's Attorney
Franklin County

Rosemary Kennedy
State's Attorney
Rutland County

Erica Marthage
State's Attorney
Bennington County

Will Porter
State's Attorney
Orange County

Todd Shove
State's Attorney
Lamoille County

Tracy Shriver
State's Attorney
Windham County

Rory T. Thibault
State's Attorney
Washington County

Dennis Wygmans
State's Attorney
Addison County

Jessica Zaleski
State's Attorney
Caledonia County