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For Immediate Release:
October 28, 2021

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*****PUBLIC STATEMENT*****

Statement of Lt. Governor Gray on the Historic Build Back Better Framework

Montpelier, Vt. —*Lt. Governor Gray released the following statement on the historic nature of the Build Back Better framework today.*

“I join millions of Americans in thanking President Biden, Senator Leahy as Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Sanders as Chair of the Senate Budget Committee, Congressman Welch, and Democrats in Congress for their leadership in reaching an historic agreement on the Build Back Better framework.

The framework represents an historic investment in working families and will deliver assistance on numerous pressing issues Vermonters are facing. Millions will be invested in clean energy and position America to lead the fight against climate change. An extension of tax credits for millions of low-wage workers will help stabilize the needs of the country’s workforce. These achievements are a huge step forward for Vermonters.

I also recognize that the framework is the result of hard compromises and that with compromise comes disappointment. I am frustrated that a federal paid family and medical leave plan has been removed from the framework. As the second oldest state in the nation, with an aging population and a shrinking workforce, the removal of the plan disproportionately impacts our state. Specifically, many Vermonters are caught in the middle as a sandwich generation, caring for their parents and children at the same time. I am hopeful that Vermont will pass paid family and medical leave legislation and show the rest of the country the many benefits it has for businesses, employees and working families.

The Build Back Better framework is a giant step forward and I am grateful of everyone who has voiced their concerns and put trust in government to address our nation’s most pressing issues during this challenging time.”

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