



Rep. Mitzi Johnson  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
Statehouse  
Montpelier, VT

Jan. 16, 2015

Dear Rep. Johnson,

I look forward to testifying before you next week about a valuable, statewide program run by Spectrum for men convicted of battering.

This program spans several counties and has shown measurable results over the years. Spectrum has been running this program since the 1970's. For many years it was funded through a combination of State contracts, in addition to payments made by the men on a sliding scale basis.

Due to the loss of state contracts, Spectrum ran a deficit of \$155,000 in our last fiscal year which ended on 9/30/14, and we are on track to lose that same amount this year. This cannot continue; we can no longer subsidize the program out of our revenue. This is a program that benefits the states attorneys, judges, prosecutors, the Department of Corrections, the Department for Children and Families, in addition to the vulnerable women and children who are associated with these men. Our partnership with the state has been a good one, and I am looking for ways to plug the hole so we can continue this program.

We have met with Jim Reardon for a productive conversation. And the states attorneys have expressed support for continuing the program.

I hope that by bringing this to your attention, we can create the energy necessary among decision makers to understand its value and make the necessary decision to fund it.

I know that you face a myriad of decisions just like this one. And I know tough decisions have to be made with little funding.

At some point, we in the social service community have to make tough decisions as well and cannot continue advocating for programs that do not deliver results to our people. Spectrum has been delivering these results for decades in Burlington and beyond. I would submit we are the model of the kind of state partner that gets the job done with little overhead and big results.

I look forward to the conversation next week.

Sincerely,



Mark Redmond  
Executive Director

CC: Sen. Jane Kitchel and Diane Snelling