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May 14, 2019

Daniel French, Secretary
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641

Dr. Mark Levine, Commissioner
Vermont Department of Health
108 Cherry Street
Burlington, VT 05402

Dear Secretary French and Commissioner Levine:

In taking testimony on sexuality education and pregnancy prevention during the 2019 legislative session, the House Committee on Human Services learned that there appears to be a patchwork of different approaches and availability of information around the State. The House Committee on Human Services wants to ensure that Vermont children learn the facts about human reproduction and sexuality, including the range of contraceptive options that are currently available. To that end, we request that the Vermont Agency of Education and the Vermont Department of Health establish an interagency working group to identify best practices in sexuality education in Vermont's schools and develop recommendations for standardizing comprehensive, evidence-informed sexuality education across all of Vermont's public schools, including a timeline for when the standardized program can be implemented statewide. The working group should also determine how specific methods of contraception can be made available to students through the schools free of charge and provide an estimate of the relevant cost to the State. The Committee would like to receive the working group's recommendations and implementation plan by January 3, 2020.

We thank you for your attention to this important issue and look forward to reviewing the results of the working group's efforts.

Sincerely,

Representative Ann Pugh, Chair
House Committee on Human Services