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**For Immediate Release:**  
March 6, 2021

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**\*\*\*PUBLIC STATEMENT\*\*\***

**Statement of Lt. Governor Gray on the Senate’s Passage of the American Rescue Plan**

**Montpelier, Vt.** —Today, Lt. Governor Gray released the following statement on the U.S. Senate’s passing of the American Rescue Plan:

“After a full year of this pandemic, Vermonters are still suffering.

Today’s passage of the American Rescue Plan by the U.S. Senate puts our Vermont families, businesses and communities one step closer to receiving the urgent relief needed to weather the remainder of this pandemic and to begin the process of recovering stronger.

Through the hard work of Vermont’s Congressional delegation, this bill ensures Vermont, and other small states, receive the support necessary to address persistent challenges exacerbated by this pandemic, a lack of access to broadband being top among them. Over the last year each day without broadband for Vermont families, businesses and communities has meant a day without access to telehealth, education, economic opportunity, support services, community and civic engagement.

The American Rescue Plan gives me hope that we will come out of this pandemic stronger. I urge the House of Representatives to act with urgency in sending the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan to President Biden’s desk so that we can get to work deploying much needed relief to Vermonters.”

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