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

**Statement of Lt. Governor Molly Gray on Senator Patrick Leahy's Service to Vermont**

**Montpelier, Vt.**— This morning, Lt. Governor Gray released the following statement in response to Senator Patrick Leahy's announcement that he will not be seeking re-election in 2022:

“In these challenging times when the needs of our state are so great, it is hard to imagine not having Senator Leahy at the helm continuing the fight for Vermont in Washington. As Vermonters, we have been served well by Senator Leahy's fierce commitment to the needs of our small, rural state over the last five decades.

Senator Leahy and Marcelle, as well as the entire dedicated and hardworking Leahy staff, have assisted countless Vermonters and have served tirelessly with an increasingly rare humility, compassion and, commitment to service, good government and meeting human needs.

Over the last five decades, when at times our nation's moral compass has wavered, Senator Leahy has remained steady, standing by Vermont's values and working to ensure our nation respects and protects those values. From human rights and civil liberties to international engagement and humanitarian relief, Senator Leahy has served as Vermont and our nation's north star.

Senator Leahy's public service remains an inspiration to me, to generations of Vermonters, millions of Americans, and to countless people around the world whose lives are better for his service.

I offer Senator Leahy and Marcelle a bittersweet and most heartfelt congratulations on today's announcement and I look forward to the continued work we will do together for Vermont in the year ahead.”

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