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Coalition Calls on Lawmakers to Release All Federal Coronavirus Relief Dollars

Urges Vermont House to ensure the health and safety of Vermonters

MONTPELIER – June 12, 2020 – A coalition of health care associations from across Vermont’s care continuum sent [a letter](#) today to Vermont House Speaker Mitzi Johnson urging her to direct \$375 million in federal relief dollars to ensure the future of Vermont’s health care system and to pass the Senate’s “hazard pay” bill.

Over the next few days, the Vermont House will be deciding how to use millions of dollars of funding that Vermont has received from the federal CARES Act. Coalition members wrote, “We cannot restore our capacity to care for Vermonters with the approximately \$150 million currently under consideration for the health care, long-term care, dental and mental health and substance abuse systems.”

While the numbers are still coming in, the data compiled by the coalition so far makes it clear that far more is needed. The coalition repeated its call for an allocation of \$375M of the federal relief dollars funneled to states to shore up their health care systems and economies. The letter notes that even though many groups are still gathering data, the coalition has already identified more than \$400 million in lost revenue and COVID-19 related expenses.

The letter urges the Speaker and the House to act, “Now is the time for Vermont to distribute federal relief dollars to the organizations and people responsible for the health and safety of Vermonters.”

Provider organizations signing the letter include: Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, VNAs of Vermont, Bayada Home Health and Hospice, Vermont Health Care Association, Vermont Medical Society, Vermont Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter, Bi-State Primary Care Association, HealthFirst Independent Practice Association, Vermont Care Partners, Vermont Psychiatric Association, Vermont State Dental Society, Vermont Association of Adult Day Services, and Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians

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