

## **JFC Proposal (addendum) offered by Representative Heath 8/18/09**

### 1. Choices for Care

#### Administration Proposal:

Sec. B.308. Office of Vermont Health Access - Medicaid Program – Long-term Care Waiver. This is a base reduction of \$731,372 that will be covered by carry forward funds in the long-term care program. There is no programmatic impact.

#### Committee Action:

The Joint Fiscal Committee is approving the reversion of FY 2009 carry forward from the Choices for Care program. It is the Committees understanding and intent that the FY 2010 appropriation remains at its fully funded level. Further, the Committee recognizes the need for statutory notwithstanding language to effect this one-time funding reversion.

The committee is concerned over the reasons that the FY 2009 expenditures were below budgeted levels. Specifically the committee has concerns about:

- Waiting list length in various regions.
- Individuals are on both the Moderate Needs and High Needs waiting lists.
- What other various services differences exist across regions of the state?
- Are there intentional roadblocks to service provision to create carry forward availability and are administrative rules the factor that led to under spending?

The Joint Fiscal Committee will appoint four members and request that the Health Access Oversight Committee appoint two members to form a subcommittee for CFC funding oversight. Between now and December 2009, the subcommittee will review the allocation and expenditure of current year funding in the CFC appropriation in meetings with the administration and institutional, home, and community based long-term care service providers. In addition, the subcommittee shall review and discuss issues relating to the PACE programs in the state.

### 2. Adult Education and Literacy and Catamount

#### Administration Proposals:

Sec. B.504. Education - adult education and literacy

\$1,800,000 will be funded from the Education Fund instead of the General Fund. There will be no impact on the program and \$787,995 general funds remain. The education fund impact will be fully offset by an anticipated reduction in the “state placed students” line item, which ended 2009 with \$3.2 million below estimate.

Sec. B.312. Health - public health

Reduction of Catamount funds \$81,000. This reduction of \$81,000 would cut funds and recommend subsequent repeal of the eligibility expansions in the Catamount program currently slated to begin in February 2010 and April 2010. These were expansions through allowing depreciation as an expense and allowing termination of self-employment in determining eligibility for the program. In addition to the FY 2010 savings of \$81,000, the FY 2011 savings are \$666,000, which would otherwise become part of state maintenance of effort requirements

under federal health care reform. It had been estimated that 452 and 122 people, respectively, would become eligible as result of these expansions. It is the Committee's recommendation that any decision resulting in eligibility expansion be postponed until after the passage of federal health care reform.

Committee Action:

The Committee recognizes that funding Adult Education and Literacy from the Education Fund will require statutory changes. These changes can take place in the budget adjustment process.

The Committee recognizes that this action removes the funding for the Catamount expansion in FY 2010 but repeal of the program will require statutory change.

The Committee's approval of these two items is conceptual only in that final action must await legislative action in the upcoming session.