



# MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

100 Robin Hood Drive, Suite 2  
Swanton, VT 05488  
Tel: (802) 868-4967 Fax: (802) 868-4265

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February 1, 2021

Dear Legislators,

We understand that the House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs is making decisions this week regarding two bills proposing changes to the process for statewide collective bargaining for public school employees' health benefits.

**We are requesting that this letter be entered into the written testimony of the Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs on H.81 and posted on the Committee's website.**

Rather than H. 81, we support H.63 because it balances appropriate access to health care benefits and reasonable cost containment to ensure the financial sustainability of the benefits. Cost containment is needed in order to avoid further jeopardizing educational opportunities for students and maintenance of facilities.

Missisquoi Valley School District examples of the importance of cost containment in health care include:

- In our Fiscal Year 22 budget we are expending \$4,281,140 on Blue Cross Blue Shield and \$886,243 in Health Reimbursement Accounts for a total budgeted expense of \$5,167,383
- Over the past few years the percentage increase of BCBS premium costs to our budget has been, 11.0% in FY22, 10.3% in FY 21 and in , FY20 10.5%
- As a district that has recently consolidated we have made so many efficiencies that our increase is only \$747,247. Of that increase \$649,024 of it is due to healthcare increases, or 87% of our increase.
- The cost of healthcare as a percentage of average cost of compensation for our teachers is (using \$55,500) Single Plan - 3.5%, Family Plan - 9.6% for Support staff (using \$16.00/hr) Single Plan - 8.6%

*Julie Regimbal, Superintendent*

*Tania Hayes  
Dir. Special Education*

*Kosha Patel  
Curriculum Director*

*Lora McAllister  
Business Manager*

*Robert Gervais  
Technology Administrator*

*Jeff Benay, Ed.D  
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At this time we have not made any significant cuts to the budget or Reductions in Force due to health insurance. Those reductions and efficiencies have been made due to changes in student enrollment and shifts in the process of managing a merged budget. We know, however, that after our district budget is “right sized”, health insurance premium increases will have a larger impact on our spending per equalized pupil.

Thank you for your important work with this legislation. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Regards,

Chris Shepard  
MVSD Board Chair

Julie Regimbal  
Superintendent

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