United Ways of Vermont

February 5, 2026

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs,

My name is Alison Lamagna and I am the Executive Director of United Ways of VT / VT 211. I am writing to provide strong support for the Vermont Language Justice Program (VLJP) and S.243, which would provide critical funding for their essential work. As of October 2025, United Ways of Vermont is proud to fiscally sponsor VLJP as it advances its path toward independent 501(c)(3) status. VLJP's mission closely aligns with that of VT 211, which is to promote the health and well-being of all people in Vermont with streamlined access to community resources. VLJP's work complements VT 211 by ensuring that critical health, safety, and social service information is accessible to all Vermonters, regardless of the language they speak. Through its multilingual videos, VLJP has provided accurate information and timely education on topics ranging from vaccinations and flooding safety to maternal and child health and childcare. VLJP fills a unique niche in Vermont by doing work that no other organization is positioned to do, making it an essential resource for communities across the state. Although VLJP's small team is mighty, additional funding through S.243 is needed to support projects that will directly impact the well-being of Vermonters and reduce the likelihood of a health crisis by ensuring accurate information about emerging health issues is widely accessible. With a relatively small investment, this funding would have a broad and meaningful impact on Vermont communities. Since working with VLJP, I have been continually impressed by both the speed and quality of the content they produce and by their deep dedication to supporting Vermonters with language access needs. I respectfully urge the committee to support the passage of S.243 and invest in this vital work for the health and safety of Vermonters statewide.

Kind Regards,

Alison Lamagna
Executive Director

United Ways of VT / VT 211