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**REPRESENTATIVE  
WILLIAM “WILL” GREER**

**FEBRUARY 2,  
2026**



**January 2026 Update: Legislation on Immigration, Healthcare, and a Happy, Happy Birthday!**

The first month of session has already been quite busy! The House of Representatives took action on eight bills in the first months, advancing them from their respective committees and sending them to the Senate.

In my committee, we’ve taken testimony regarding the ICE situation in Vermont, the impact that its activities have had on the justice system and the correctional facilities. The Executive Director of Vermont Asylum Assistance Program (VAAP) spoke about the immigration detainees. We discussed avenues that the legislature can take to ensure everyone in our justice system has a right to a fair trial.

**Please join me if you are able to at Bennington College’s Center for Advancement of Public Action (CAPA) on February 14 from 1:00-2:00 PM to discuss legislative updates.**

This newsletter will focus on healthcare and immigration policy updates. For the most part, Act 73 developments have been slow and there is not much to update on the education front (for now — that will certainly change!)

Additionally, I am happy to announce that over the past few weeks, I have been working with a new intern who replaced James from last year! Madison has been a helpful resource on keeping track of bills and committee work happening around the State House. Read a short biography about Madison & how she’s happy to be on Team Bennington!

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In this newsletter,  
you will find:

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Immigration (Pg. 2)  
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Tax, Town, & Other  
Updates (Pg. 4)

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Intern Introduction!  
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## Immigration Policy Proposal Updates



The House and Senate have been working on separate, but similar, efforts to move forward on immigration related legislation. **The two bills receiving the most attention are S.208 and S.209 which focus on law enforcement identification and protective status in certain sensitive spaces, respectively.**

**S.209 builds on H.511 that I introduced in April 2025 as a precautionary measure to limit immigration enforcement agencies from disrupting daily activities in non-public spaces and sensitive locations**

**(primarily schools in the case of H.511.)**

We believe that the Senate will move action on these items quicker than the House, but we are still in the progress stage of the Judiciary committees reviewing the language.

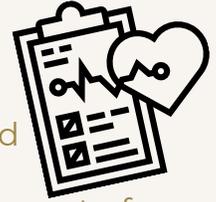
**Last week, we voted on H.R. 12, a resolution *"...expressing support for the principles behind the statement of Governor Philip B. Scott..."* regarding immigration enforcements efforts. I voted YES on the roll call, the vote count was 106-25.**

### 2026 Legislative Status: Immigration Policies

In the House, there are several bills related to immigrant rights moving forward that I have sponsored and monitoring. The ACLU Chapter of Vermont and Vermont Asylum Assistance Project (VAAP) have been excellent partners in crafting legislation and policy outreach related to these topics:

- **H.745: An act relating to immigration enforcement**
- **H.747: An act relating to standards for law enforcement identification**
- **H.786: An act relating to remote meetings with the Department of Homeland Security**

## Healthcare Updates: Telehealth & Vaccinations



There were two major bills that passed in the House this month regarding healthcare policy.

The first one, that received less attention, was **H.84 related to “allowing telehealth appointments to be recorded with patient and provider consent.”** This was a bill I cosponsored after speaking with healthcare providers back in 2024.

Without the ability to record, providers noted that patients could receive a higher quality of care by creating a mutual system of record keeping that can be used to track patient health. This ties into issues regionally with the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact which

regulates how providers and patients can access telehealth appointments. This is part of a measured effort to expand healthcare access for Vermonters.

In relation to the healthcare system, the Budget Adjustment process, **H.790, approved an additional \$100,000 for our Turning Point Center here in Bennington** to help their efforts above baseline spending approved last year. This funding is adjusted to reflect the increase in use of services and overall operational expenditures for our region.

### ***Q: Why is the State of Vermont making additional vaccine recommendations?***

H.545 was a bill related to immunization recommendations and establishing a vaccination schedule independently of the federal government. **First, the bill authorizes the State to continue standing orders for these vaccines** and that insurance companies must cover these expenses. Second, it provides **protections for consumers that have adverse effects**. Third, it enables the State to make policy recommendations for immunizations.

The most important part about this bill to highlight is that **the Scott Administration and the Legislature were very collaborative in this effort to pass this bill.** We wanted to make sure that individuals have the best information to make informed health decisions and have the most accessibility to those vaccinations. **By expanding these protections and coverage, Vermont became the first State to use its authority to create additional guidance to CDC recommendations.**

**The vote was 127-12 in favor of H.545. I voted YES.**



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## Other Updates: Bills, Committee Work, and General Legislative Updates

There have been several things that have happened behind the scenes that I want to update on:

First, House Correction and Institutions review the Department of Corrections' (DOC) budget for FY2026 and made adjustments to what was approved for July 1, 2025. **DOC was on target with spending projections with the exception of our healthcare contract (which requested an \$8 million increase to the FY2026 baseline.)** This raised serious concerns about our WellPath contract and whether the medical provider was accurately

and appropriately billing our services. **After reviewing their documents and having extensive testimony, we approved the request.**

**Last week, I introduced J.R.H.7 which supports our existing relationship with Denmark and Greenland.** This was a bipartisan effort to express to the Greenlandic government that we want to be partners in trade and democracy and emphasize our shared history together. **[Click here to read the "Final Reading" section of VT Digger on J.R.H.7](#)**

### ***Q: What's the status on our Town Charter changes?***

I presented to the House Government and Operations Committee on January 21<sup>st</sup> the Town of Bennington's charter amendments. **H.693, H.694, H.695, and H.696 are the four charter amendments that the town passed in March 2025.** The town legislative delegation decided that based on my understanding of the charter process that I would be the lead sponsor on the four amendments. If you have any comments or thoughts, please send your thoughts at **[wgreer@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:wgreer@leg.state.vt.us)**

### ***Q: What is the status on property tax relief?***

I've received mixed responses regarding the Governor's announcement around another "buy down" and the Legislature's decision to not include any property tax relief efforts in the Budget Adjustment Act.

I want to emphasize that **the budgetary adjustment is not the place to include new policy proposals.** It was also not the best time to make a decision without knowing the full picture of school budgets or assessment numbers. We expect a clear picture in mid-March!



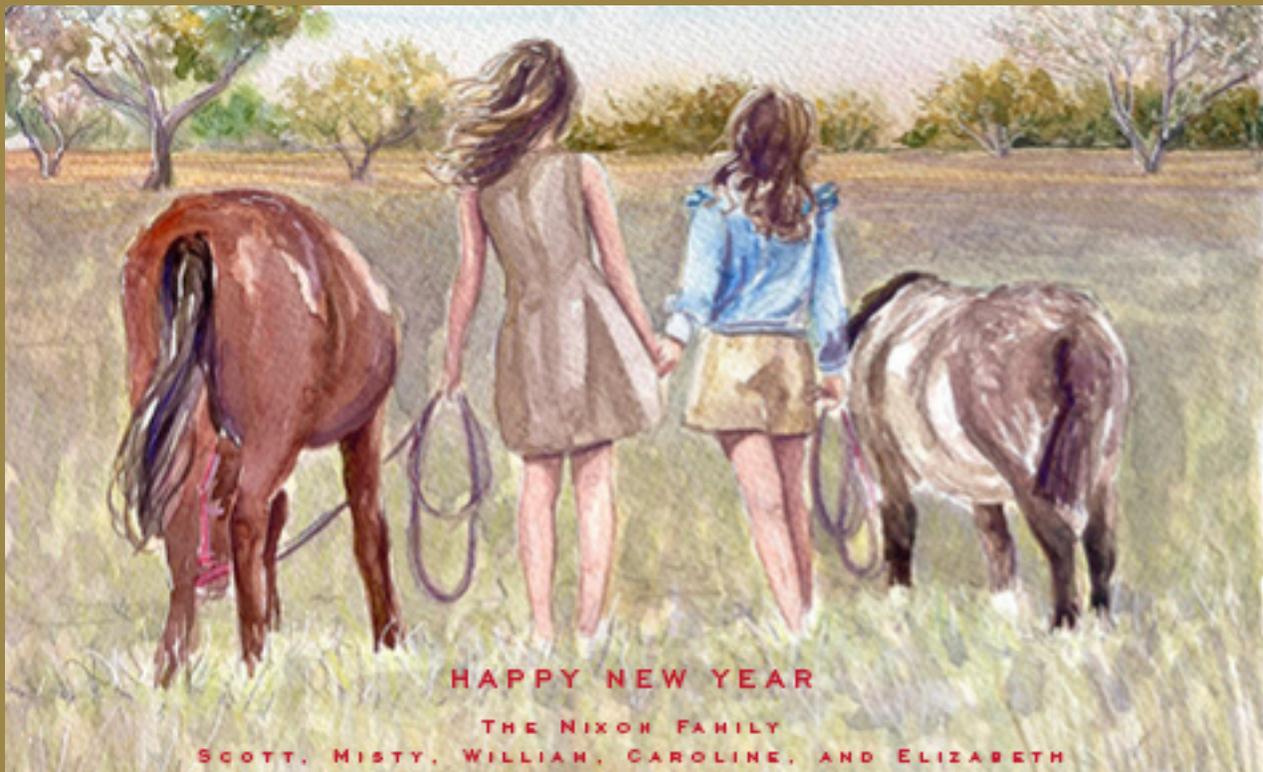
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## Happy New Year & Thank You for the Birthday Wishes!

Thank you to everyone who sent a Happy Birthday message either via text, FaceBook, phone call, or – *my personal favorite* – by mail!

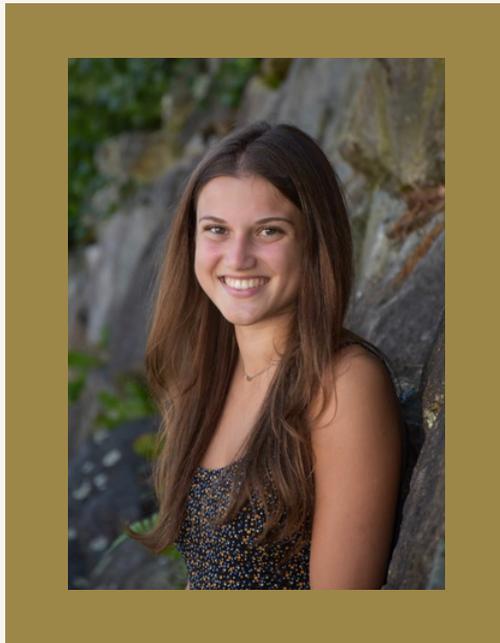
Please accept my family's apologies for the belated New Years card. They finally arrived to me the other day and I am sending them out to a random list of folks (because there are too many amazing people in our lives!) Here's to a wonderful 2026!

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**2026 Legislative Session Intern through the UVM &  
Norwich University Legislative Program:  
Madison Jackson!**



**MADISON HAS PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING RUN ON CLIMATE AND THE DREAM PROGRAM THROUGH AMERICORPS, WORKING DIRECTLY WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN BOTH ROLES. THIS IS HER FIRST TIME INTERNING IN THE LEGISLATURE AND IS EXCITED TO WORK ON ISSUES IMPACTING THE BENNINGTON-2 DISTRICT.**

**MADISON IS A SENIOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT, PURSUING A MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY AND TWO MINORS: ECONOMICS AND GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES. LAST YEAR, MADISON WAS INDUCTED INTO THE TRIOTA HONORS SOCIETY IN RECOGNITION OF HER ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT.**

**MADISON IS FROM WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, AND WILL RETURN HOME AFTER GRADUATING BEFORE PURSUING A CAREER IN THE LEGAL FIELD, WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON HEALTH CARE POLICY.**