Rutland Herald

New legislation introduced in the U.S. House aims to help small states like Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine deal with homelessness.

Rep. Peter Welch, a Vermont Democrat, is pushing to boost the amount small states get under a program to address homelessness.

Created in 1990, the program funds states' efforts to help those suffering from mental illness or substance abuse and who are at risk of becoming homeless.

Welch says most states have benefited from an increase in funding over the years. But 21 smaller states including the three in northern New England have received no increase from the $300,000 they got two decades ago, despite the rising cost of services and an increase in demand.