



An alliance to save the long term care system: at home, in communities, and in facilities.

March 17, 2023

Dear Chair Lanpher and Members of House Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of the Long Term Care Crisis Coalition (LTCCC) we are submitting our reflections on the Governor's FY24 State Budget as they relate to funding impacting some of Vermont's most vulnerable people.

We support the recommendations made by the House Committy on Human Services as they relate to long term care services, including Assitive Community Care Services (ACCS); however, as noted below, we do not support the recommendation related to Adult Day Programs.

This is the first step towards addressing the funding crisis that home- and community-based long term care services are facing, as indicated by the DVHA rate studies. These studies have identified the need for a \$31M funding investment across the long-term care spectrum to ensure access for those who depend on it. It is the belief of this coalition that a staggered approach will allow the system to stabilize without placing undue strain on the FY24 budget. Without these investments now, the low Medicaid reimbursement rate, severe workforce shortages, and chronic underfunding may lead to additional facility closures.

Regarding the Medicaid reimbursement rate for Adult Day Services, we support a rate of \$25/hour.

The 15% reimbursement rate increase recommended by the House Human Services Committee for Adult Day Programs (\$1,060,800/\$21.33/hour) will not be enough to sustain these programs. We ask the Committee to increase this reimbursement rate to \$25/hour to ensure this important community resource remains available to all who need it. Underfunding this reimbursement rate will require additional emergency appropriations to supplement the programs or face additional closures. These programs provide safe, stimulating, and appropriate care to Vermonters with dementia, provide respite and care that allows family caregivers to remain in the workforce, and are the most cost effective option

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruby Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ruby" being more prominent than the last name "Baker".

Ruby Baker, on behalf of the Long Term Care Crisis Coalition