

Theresa Utton

Subject: FW: Home Access Program

From: Joyce Werntgen
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 9:39 AM
Subject: Home Access Program

Hello Theresa,

These are the key points of the testimony I will give today at about 1:15 pm before the House Appropriations Committee.

**Home Access Program
Vermont Center for Independent Living**

- The Home Access Program provides accessibility modifications for Vermonters living with a disability to enable them to live more independently and remain in their homes and communities.
- The average cost of \$10,000 for HAP home modifications is much less costly than the \$60,000 a year it costs the state for a nursing home residency.
- The Home Access Program currently has a waiting list of 134 people with a wait of about 2 years before they are able to enter or leave their home or have full access to their bathrooms.
- With the traditional HAP funding levels of \$435,000 from VHCB and \$100,000 from the Department of Aging and Independent Living we are able to provide 40 home modifications a year although our waiting list will continue to grow, with 10 or 12 new applications each month.
- The Home Access Program has a huge impact on the independence of people with disabilities and their ability to fully participate in their communities.

--