

February 13, 2017

To the Budget Committee, Vermont House and Senate

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY

Testimony given in Bellows Falls.

I want to highlight the demographics of Vermont: present and trending in relation to the budget and level funding.

A. GROWING DEMOGRAPHIC

1. The older citizen population is **increasing** steadily.
2. The State budget has for years, level funded the Senior Citizen programs & benefits in the budget.
3. The older citizens are paying taxes.

B. DECREASING DEMOGRAPHIC

1. The younger citizen population, particularly school aged citizens is **decreasing** steadily.
2. The State **increases school aged population items** on the budget: programs, education, and other benefits.
3. The school age citizens do not pay taxes.

C. DEMOGRAPHICS, BUDGET AND FUNDING:

1. Do not level fund any programs, benefits and actions which affect the older citizens
2. Do not level fund the programs of the increasing older population,

D. SUMMARY:

Do not level fund any program or budget item which directly affects the increasing older population who pay taxes.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Stead, Putney Vermont, resident &

Town Representative to Senior Solutions the Area Agency on Aging