

**From:** peter harris [peterharris600@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:40 PM  
**To:** Theresa Utton  
**Subject:** Appropriations Committee testimony 02/13/2018

02/13/2018

Greetings, Peter Harris, Montpelier, Vice-President of the Board of the Central Vermont Council on Aging.

I am testifying in favor of H434. which will streamline the Council on Aging's ability to do what it does best: to most effectively and compassionately administer precious funding and programs that address the acute needs of senior Vermonters. In this case, seniors with health issues who can still live at home and are served by the Meals on Wheels Program. I see this work as my duty and hope that you see it as your duty to.

This isn't just an impersonal funding issue, it is a human story. The label "Senior" belies the fact that we are, sick or well, aunts and cousins, friends and mentors, parents and great-grandparents, business people and lawmakers who are still integral to the web of our social fabric.

This modest piece of legislation is but one block in an important larger structure of care in an area where 50% of the population is fifty years old or older. I look upon my Legislature as guardians of our right to independence in face of the indignities of old age and the apprehensions of an uncertain safety net. This is not charity, we paid into the system over a life time of sweat, service and sacrifice.

I am a senior. I work. I volunteer. I have health issues. As I strive to uphold my end of the social contract it is with the understanding that when I am broken and gone in the teeth those who follow will value, protect and succor me.

Thank you,  
Peter Harris