

Unfortunately, there is not anyone else here prepared to comment on this legislation today. However, first Jackie Majoros, and more recently me directly, have been in touch with DAIL and their legal staff, in the preparing Vermont's response to these federally mandated required changes.

A large number of the proposed changes codify existing Vermont Ombudsman practices or our current understandings of state and federal law.

The Ombudsman Project does not have any significant issues with the proposed legislation.

We are very short staffed currently, but hope to have a new State Long Term Care Ombudsman on board soon who would be able to respond more completely to legislative requests.

Please pass on my apologies to the Committee.

Eric
Eric Avildsen