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Testimony on H.608: Creating an Older Vermonters Act Work Group House Human Services Committee

www.Vermont4A.org

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My name is Janet Hunt and I am the Executive Director for the Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging, otherwise known as V4A. I represent the five non-profit Area Agencies on Aging located throughout Vermont.

These agencies respond to the needs and directions of older Vermonters and their families by offering information, referral and assistance, health insurance counseling, options counseling, family caregiver support, nutrition counseling, connections to meals, wellness programs and supports to Veterans to live indiependently in their own homes.

The five agencies are members of the Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging that come together to ensure that all Vermonters age with health, independence and dignity by strengthening our capacity.

The representation of the Older Vermonter's working group is inclusive of partner agencies and adult citizens of Vermont who will provide comprehensive recomendations and strategic plans to support the Older American's Act, Choices for Care and the Vermont State Plan on Aging.

The role of the Older Vermonters Act working group will ensure that critical services are needed to keep older adults healthy and independent. The recommendations and outcomes from the working group will be a major vehicle for collaboration, coordination and organization of a wide delivery of social and nutrition services to older adults and their caregivers.

The Older Vermonters Act working group provides a pivotal opportunity for all of us to embrace healthy aging and commit to prepare for and invest in the later stages of the lives of adults. V4A wholeheartedly supports H.608.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today.