

## **MEMO**

To: Senate Health and Welfare Committee  
From: David Mickenberg, Community of Vermont Elders  
Re: 2019 Human Services Budget  
Date: March 27, 2018

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Below are COVE's priorities for the 2019 Human Services Budget:

- 1) **Choices for Care**: COVE supports the 2% increase for Choices for Care included in the House passed budget. We would further support language that calls for making such increases statutory. A statutorily mandated increase, something COVE has advocated for some time, would help ensure the long-term viability of Choices for Care as more Vermonters utilize home and community based services. This language could be added to the annual Choices for Care language that is annually included in the budget, language that COVE supports.
- 2) **Attendant Services Program**: The House restored a portion of the Governor's proposed cuts to this important program that helps disabled Vermonters, many whom are elders, maintain their ability to live in the community. COVE supports full restoration of this funding.
- 3) **LIHEAP**: COVE supports the language in the House passed budget to ensure that the most Vermonters possible can access this vital life saving program.