

April 7, 2017

To: Senate Appropriations Committee

From: Vermont Association of Adult Day Services

Re: FY 18 Choices for Care Budget

The budget from the House has changed the CFC language from last year. The House removed language on savings reinvestment. Over the years, the legislature has agreed that any savings from CFC should be reinvested in the home and community based provider services. For a number of years, the budget has included language that reserves 1% of savings to be put into a reserve to avoid a freeze on the moderate needs group. A question has arisen as to whether the 1% reserve has carried forward each year, or whether that reserve is being spent each year. We are requesting that the Senate include the same savings language as was in the FY 17 budget.

The part of the House budget that we do support is language in Section E.308.1 which will help to achieve parity in the provider reimbursement rate for home and community based providers and institutional care settings. It codifies the Choices for Care program in the Vermont statutes. The home and community based providers are key to long-term care and we believe that they should be in statute.

Vermont Home Health received an increase in the budget. Although we do not oppose an increase to home health services, we believe that the other home and community-based providers should also receive a comparable increase. The Adult Day programs receive a reimbursement rate of \$15.76/hour, which does not cover their costs.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.