

My name is Jessica Butterfield, and I live in Rutland. It's very difficult for me to get a properly fitting wheelchair through Medicaid and Medicare. When I got my current wheelchair in the spring of 2013, I weighed well over 200 pounds. I needed to lose weight for medical reasons, so I changed my diet, and lost over 90 pounds in a three year period. My wheelchair was too big for me by this point, but I still had to wait two more years to get a new wheelchair. My wheelchair didn't provide the trunk support I need anymore, so I started to slump to one side or the other. This caused increasing pain in my back and neck. I started putting pillows on either side of me to prop me up. This is only helpful for part of the day. I'm more comfortable laying in bed, or in my recliner than sitting in my wheelchair. This is very counterproductive, because I need to be able to use my wheelchair to get to work, medical appointments, and social events. I feel that people should be able to get their wheelchairs replaced if the wheelchair becomes too big or too small for them. No one wears clothes or shoes that don't fit, so why should someone use an improperly fitting wheelchair?