

**Summary of Testimony  
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare  
March 27, 2018**

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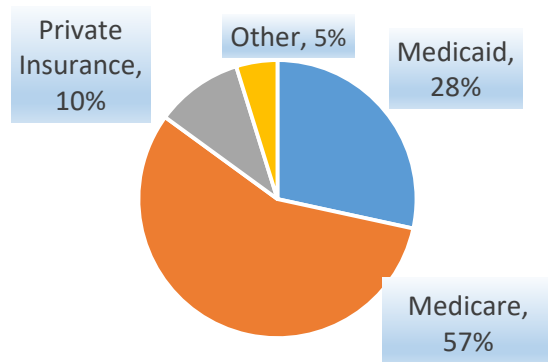
**Brief Overview**

- 9 not-for-profit VNAs of Vermont members
- Members serve all 251 Vermont towns
- Approximately a million visits every year – which take 6 million miles of travel to accomplish
- Home health is highly cost-effective, representing just over 2% of health care spending in Vermont

**Services**

- Universal access to medically necessary **health care at home** (nursing and therapies) and **hospice services**
- **Maternal-child health, high-tech and other special programs**
- **Choices for Care:** Vermont Medicaid program that helps individuals who are eligible for nursing home services remain independent at home; some services for those with less acuity: **personal care, respite care, homemaker services.**

**Sources of Revenue**



- Medicare rates have declined by 14% since 2009. The 3% rural add-on will be reduced to 2% on January 1, 2019, 1% on January 1, 2020 and then eliminated.
- Home Health Medicaid and Choices for Care rates have increased inconsistently over the same period, well below the rate of inflation.

**House Budget**

- The VNAs of Vermont strongly supports the 2% increase for home health services and Choices for Care services included in the House budget.
- A 2% increase will not be adequate to fund the minimum wage increases proposed in S.40.