

Testimony – H.611 – The Older Vermonters Act
Virginia Renfrew
Vermont Association of Adult Day Services
House Human Services Committee – February 6, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am Virginia Renfrew and I am here today to testify on behalf of the Vermont VT Association of Adult Day Services. There are 14 Adult Day programs throughout the state, serving Vermonters in their community. Adult Day programs are part of Choices for Care. I have sent you a one-pager regarding their programs and services.

I want to thank Representatives Wood and Noyes for introducing this bill. It is important that the Legislature consider this bill. Our state is growing older and we must understand the impact on our state and what we need to do to be prepared for the changing demographics.

I would like to ask you to consider adding Adult Day programs in two sections of H.611 – Sections 2 and 5.

Section 2 - Increasing Medicaid Rates for Home- and Community-Based Service Providers

Section 2 is very important to the Adult Day programs. When Choices for Care began, providers were told that the savings would be used to increase their reimbursements rates. For a number of years, as more Vermonters were being served in the community and fewer in nursing homes, there was no such reinvestment. Providers, over the last few years, have seen a 2% reimbursement increase. For Adult Day programs, this only amounted to a little over 30 cents/hour.

We support, at a minimum, an annual inflation rate increase, similar to nursing homes. It is time for the home- community based provider to receive the same increases. We propose the following amendment to Section 2:

Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 900 is amended to read:

6 § 900. DEFINITIONS

(7) “Home- and community-based services” means long-term services and supports received in a home or community setting other than a nursing home pursuant to the Choices for Care component of Vermont’s Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration or a successor program and includes home health and hospice services, assistive community care services, **adult day services**, and enhanced residential care services.

Section 5 - Self-Neglect Working Group

The Self-Neglect Working Group is created to provide recommendations regarding adults who are unable to perform essential self-care tasks. This addresses most of adult day participants. They have vast experience and valuable information on this subject. Therefore, we ask that you consider adding the following amendment to Section 5:

(b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following members:

(xx) **the President of the Vermont Association of Adult Day Services, or his or her designee.**