

From:
Subject: FW: Appropriation Committee Testimony

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Hello Legislators! I am unable, at this point, to attend the appropriations Committee hearing that will be held at Bennington College on Monday, February 10th. So, below are some items I would like to share with you. Two of the below items are within the Vermont Coalition for Disability rights Legislative Platform.

In the future, would you consider having hearings of this nature at a more central location in downtown Bennington?

Using Medicaid dollars to fund One Care, Vermont's only accountable care organization. I do not think this wise and would ask you not to allow this to happen. In my humble opinion Medicaid is underfunded. Instead of taking as much as 11 million dollars away from the Medicaid budget, funds could be allocated to pay those in-home care workers in the Choices for Care program an increase in their hourly wage. At present, in-home care agencies are having a difficult time filling positions because the job market is doing so well. Hourly wages could be increased to recruit staff. Workers should be paid a wage that is more than the minimum wage and reflects the hard work that they are doing to help disabled and elderly people stay in our homes.

Unfreeze the waiting list for the Participant Directed Attendant Care (PDAC) Program! **Currently, since the PDAC program is not an option, people that need in-home care need to impoverish themselves to meet Medicaid eligibility guidelines in order to be eligible for Choices for Care. If you have been able to acquire assets prior to needing in-home care, these assets need to be depleted. When a person is trying to maintain a home, go back to school, or keep a car on the road, the limited assets that are left jeopardize successfully filling these needs when living in poverty. Also, people that are working, can in many situations, earn more then they are allowed to earn and in turn, keep their in-home care. This makes it difficult to have a job. The PDAC program is based upon an independent living model and not a Medicaid model. This means that a person's ability to have in-home care would not be threaten by working at a good job or maintaining personal resources.**

Medicaid funding for Dentures! First, I want to thank the legislature for last sessions expansion of what dental services are covered by Medicaid. As you know, teeth are important for nutrition and one's self-image. Resources that help people pay for dentures are extremely scarce. Usually, requiring Multiple sources to be pooled to pay for dentures.

Thank you for your consideration!

Your thoughts –

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