

**A World Where Aging is Honored**  
CVCOA Helpline 1-800-642-5119

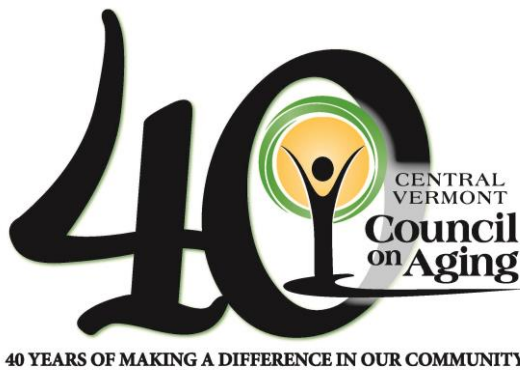
Beth Stern, Central Vermont Council on Aging: Feb 6, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I'm Beth Stern, Executive Director of Central Vermont Council on Aging, one of the five area agencies on aging in Vermont. You heard last month from Janet Hunt, our association director. I'm here to focus on what effects H611 might have on the area agencies on aging.

First, the area agencies on aging support H611 and are very appreciative of the collaborative work that went into crafting this bill. It's wonderful to see a truly positive focus on aging and services for older Vermonters. The section on principles and protections (6202) is complete, age-affirming and inspirational.

Much of the bill is modeled after the federal Older American's Act, which guides the area agencies on aging in our work. Thus, section 6205, "the duties of the Area Agencies on Aging" is consistent with the policies and activities that the five agencies are already doing.

Where there may be concern from the Area Agencies is if there is additional assessment and reporting requirements that fall on the Area Agencies on Aging, whether that is reporting the direct work that we are doing, or whether some of the reporting that of the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living is partially



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passed on to us. The bill speaks to a comprehensive needs assessment that identifies gaps and provides increased demographic data about those we serve. This would require a more robust data collection and analysis system and thus additional resources.

Area Agencies on Aging already do numerous reports and data collection. We submit a lengthy and complex federal report each year, we report twice a year on at least 6 Area Plan goals using Result Based Accountability, we report on self-neglect activity and numbers, we send reports to 3squaresVT, Medicaid, and Fuel Assistance. We send caregiver reports, volunteer program reports, town reports, grant reports and others that I'm forgetting. We struggle to find the balance between serving the clients and doing the reports to justify the funding for the service. Additional expectations without additional administrative resources would be problematic.

In closing, the Area Agencies on Aging want to thank all those who worked on this important bill. We feel that given the demographics of Vermont, a focus on older Vermonters is not only appropriate, it is vital. This bill, with some changes, could help create a way forward to continue to support older Vermonters in the best way possible.

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