



Empowering Older Vermonters Through Advocacy and Education

COVE Testimony on S.23

January 24, 2019

Senate Committee on Economic Development

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.23. COVE supports this bill. We have advocated for better pay and improved working conditions for Vermonters for many years. In this time of workforce shortages, we believe that higher pay for Vermont workers, many of whom are caregivers for older persons, will increase quality, productivity, and retention of those workers.

For those Older Vermonters who are still in the work force S.23 will allow many of them to have a higher quality of life as they age, ultimately smoothing the path to retirement, or easing their financial burdens as they attempt to live on fixed and limited incomes.

Many social service workers fall within the category of those who will benefit from an increased minimum wage. It is important that the State work to ensure there is no reduction in the number of service hours that we provide to Vermonters, and as such, we see this as an opportunity to work with the Legislature to ensure appropriate funding to support the individuals and organizations that work with older adults statewide.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of COVE in support of S.23.