



Vermont
Association of
Area Agencies
on Aging

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Member Agencies:

Age Well
Central Vermont Council on Aging
Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging
Senior Solutions

To: Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

From: Janet Hunt, Executive Director

Date: March 31, 2021

Regarding: H. 153 - An act relating to Medicaid reimbursement rates for home- and community-based service providers

The Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A) strongly supports H.153 – Medicaid reimbursement rates for home and community-based services providers. I want to thank the Committee for taking up H.153.

The V4A is comprised of the five Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) which are located throughout Vermont. Area Agencies on Aging provide necessary supports for older adults to be able to choose to live at home. V4A and our partner agencies work together to provide person-centered, long-term care options and services for individuals to remain at home, in their communities, thus reducing high costs of care in facilities.

The Care Management staff at the AAA's offer care coordination for vulnerable older adults who qualify for Choices for Care/Medicaid. The AAA Care Management services contribute to reductions in hospitalizations and emergency visits by our clients- thereby saving overall health care dollars for our state.

The last rate increase AAAs received was 2% in 2019 and since then there has not been any additional increase. Annual rate increases would create a reliable system of support for this much-needed home and community-based service. The State cannot afford to lose providers who are providing these valuable services to Vermonters.