

Good Morning,

Not sure who to send this to, and asking you to forward to the correct place.

I am writing today as I saw an article on WCAX regarding a proposed bill, S.276, introduced by Mark MacDonald related to requiring "elders" 75 and older to pass drivers test.

I am adamantly opposed to this bill. Vermont is already making it difficult for the older generation to live in Vermont due to the high tax burden. To make a blanket requirement for individuals 75 and older to be re-tested to drive is age discrimination at its best. This is just going to make more Vermonters leave the state when they retire. Vermont does not have reliable, safe, convenient or efficient public transportation, especially in rural communities. Taking away the right to drive for an individual is taking away their independence and quality of life.

I walk several times a day and part of it is on a busy road. I can tell you the cars I feel threatened by are not being driven by the older generation; it is the young adults who are driving fast and distracted. Maybe a bill should be proposed to have young adults retested up to age 30-that's the real threat on our roads!

And for the record, I am only 58. My husband & I often discuss if we will want to stay in VT when we retire. If VT passes laws like this, I can say with confidence, no. We will move to a state that celebrates our older generation, not try to suppress them. And 75 is not old by today's standards. Every individual is different, and I know 75 year olds that can run circles around me. A medical professional should determine who isn't well enough to drive, not the government.

Thank you for your time,
Michelle Leever