

Mina Maddi Jendoubi

Testimony to Vermont Legislature

April 25, 2025

Hello. My name is Mina Maddi. I live in Montpelier and I'm a student at Central Vermont Adult Education. Thank you for inviting me to testify today. I came to the US because my husband was here. He was here for four years. We have two children, and we wanted the family to be together. I found CVAE because my friend recommended it.

My goals were to be better in English, to find a job, to feel more stable, and to meet new people. I also want to get my driver's license.

I have been taking an English class twice a week. This has helped me to feel more comfortable with people and to introduce me to the community. I have made new friends in class and with the teacher we organize special celebrations like Valentine's Day and the end of Ramadan. We share food from our cultures. I started to integrate little by little and I started to talk to people more and more. It made it easier for me to speak better and better.

Another skill I practiced is working with Brian to create my resume. My connection with Brian and CVAE helped me to find my current job. I assist an older woman with her daily needs, such as cooking, cleaning, shopping, and companionship. My teacher recently helped me create an account with VT Job Link and that will help me find more work since my current job is very part-time work.

My biggest hope is to have my own house, a good job, a better life than the one I had before, to be safe, and to live in peace and harmony.

On a separate note, as a parent I'm very worried about the quantity of time my teenagers spend on their cell phones. It's like they are dependent on their phone. Now it's a very big problem in the world. So, I hope we can find a solution for them and also for the adults to have more connection with people and to give up the phones a little bit. A good place to start would be no phones in school. I hope you support that legislation.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify today. Thank you to the Vermont state government for giving money to Adult Education to make these opportunities possible.