

Outline of 2/9 testimony regarding H.753 - Stories from the Not-For-Profits

A. Richard Butz

- Bristol Resident
- Board member of Vermont Interfaith Power and Light
- Member Social Action Committee at Ascension Lutheran Church, S. Burlington

B. Three people brought to the edge because of utility bills.

C. Federal Government Pulse Survey - June/July 2025, 72 Million Americans were in arrears on their utility Bills.

D. Background - where the stories came from

- JUMP - Joint Urban Ministries Project
 - 38 S. Winooski Ave, Burlington
 - JUMP's direct assistance includes options for payments towards groceries, heat, water and electricity bills; bus passes; vouchers for gas for your vehicle; thrift shop and laundromat vouchers; toiletries and other personal hygiene items as available, and informed referrals. Provide counseling regarding programs available for aid.
- ALC Dreibelbis Crisis Fund
 - Set up to assist folks for whom there is no other source of assistance
 - Awards range from motel stays, car repairs, security deposits
 - Clients are referred and vetted by(JUMP) and CVOEO and others
 - Crisis Fund steps in when others don't have the resources and need is immediate
 - Common are overdue utility bills

E. Stories

- MO - referred by JUMP
- Maria - referred by JUMP
- Kenneth - responded to FPF article

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