



**Eric Fritz, President, Vermont Association of Adult Day Services
House Human Services Committee
H.13 - Medicaid reimbursement rates for home- and community-based service
providers
January 29, 2025**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify – and thank you, Rep. Noyes and Rep. Wood, for introducing this bill. My name is Eric Fritz. I am the Executive Director of Scotland House and the President of the Vermont Associations of Adult day Services (VAADS). VAADS supports H.13.

There are 11 Adult day centers around the state. Before the pandemic there were 14 centers. We are hoping to see two open in the areas that closed in the near future.

Adult day centers provide a safe, supportive environment where people can come during the day and receive a range of professional health, social and therapeutic services, as well as a nutritious meal and valuable social interaction. Adult day services also provide respite, support and education to family members and caregivers. Adult day centers provide on-site healthcare services, including nursing care, social work/counselling services and more. Each program is different, but we all share a common focus on ensuring that our participants are well cared for and supported, while having a fun and stimulating day in a loving and respectful environment.

If you would like to learn more about adult day centers, please visit our website <https://vermontadulthood.org/>. There is a short video that will give you a complete picture of what we are all about.

Two years ago, we were greatly appreciative when the Legislature increased our Medicaid reimbursement rate to \$25 an hour. While this increase has helped with increasing our ability to pay our staff a higher wage, we still struggle with covering our constantly increasing expenses. H.13 will definitely help, specially the annual review of Medicaid payment rates, as well as annual inflation increases.

We also hope that this committee will support in the FY2026 budget the full implementation of the increases for home-based Choices for Care services and Enhanced Residential Care (ERC) described in the February 15, 2023 [Department of Vermont Health Access rate study](#)