



To: Chair Kornheiser and Members of the House Ways & Means Committee  
From: Colin Hilliard (chilliard@aarp.org | 802-238-5693)  
Advocacy Director, AARP Vermont  
Re: **S. 51 - An act relating to the Vermont unpaid caregiver tax credit**  
Date: April 15, 2025

My name is Colin Hilliard, Advocacy Director of AARP Vermont. AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, non-partisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. On behalf of the nearly 38 million members nationwide and 110,000 members here in Vermont, **we urge you to favorably support S.51 - An act relating to a Vermont unpaid caregiver tax credit.**

AARP supports commonsense solutions for family caregivers that will save them time and money, and provide them with more support. Family caregivers are the backbone of our nation's long-term care system, and they provide care ranging from bathing and dressing to paying bills to providing transportation. Although their assistance helps save taxpayers billions of dollars by helping to delay or prevent expensive nursing home care and unnecessary hospital stays, many family caregivers face significant out-of-pocket costs related to providing care.

Today, more than 1 in 3 Vermont voters 40-plus have experience as family caregivers and 62% say they are at least somewhat likely to be an unpaid caregiver in their future, according to a 2023 AARP Vermont Voter Survey. The median age of a current caregiver in Vermont is 60 and family caregivers are most likely to be caring for a parent, particularly their mother.

AARP's 2023 Valuing the Invaluable report found that in Vermont 70,000 Caregivers provide 66m care hours every year. We estimate the economic value of that caregiving to be \$1.23B a year.

Family caregivers are stressed and often overwhelmed balancing the physical, emotional, financial and time-consuming demands required to care for their older loved one. Caregivers spend an average of \$7,200+ a year out of their own pockets on care-related costs and 20 hours a week.

A 2023 AARP poll of Vermont voters 40+ found that:

- 61% of family caregivers pay for expenses out of their own pockets to care for a loved one, covering the cost of transportation, home modifications, medical equipment and more.
- 3 in 4 caregivers say they feel stressed emotionally, and one in three say they feel strained financially.
- Two in three current and former caregivers (66%) say they provided care while working.

In conclusion, AARP supports S.51. An unpaid caregiver tax credit will put money back into the pockets of hardworking family caregivers; helping them remain in the workforce and defray some of the costs they incur. It would also send a powerful message to family caregivers that their unpaid work is valuable and is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Colin Hilliard

Associate State Director – Advocacy and Outreach, AARP Vermont