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**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**Lt. Governor Molly Gray Calls on Congress to Pass the “Preserving Access to Home Health Act”**

**Montpelier, Vt.** — Today, Vermont Lieutenant Governor Molly Gray, in a letter to Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders and the Vermont Congressional Delegation, expressed concerns about cuts to reimbursement for home health care services provided by Medicare-certified home care agencies, including Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice (CVHHH), a nonprofit VNA serving 23 communities in Washington and Orange Counties, Vermont.

Cuts to Medicare home health reimbursement would put an unnecessary and untimely strain on home health care service providers like CVHHH, which provides vital community-based healthcare and whose work is directly aligned with the goals of health reform in Vermont.

“Home health providers are experts at doing a lot with a little, which is why home care is one of the lowest-cost care settings. Medicare is CVHHH’s primary payor. The cuts make worse an already challenged and strained healthcare workforce environment. They disallow CVHHH from being able to pay competitive wages and benefits, which are critical to retaining clinicians and caregivers and will impact home healthcare service delivery,” said Sandy Rousse, CVHHH’s President & CEO.

Lt. Governor Gray’s letter emphasizes the need to pass S.4605 Preserving Access to Home Health Act of 2022, which aims to delay the cuts.

“Medicare home care cuts would have a detrimental impact on Vermonters in Central Vermont and statewide. CVHHH never closed during the pandemic and the home health care they and other providers deliver is individualized, based on a person’s unique needs and goals, and it is provided in the lowest-cost setting. This saves patients and the broader healthcare system money and improves people’s health-related quality of life,” Lt. Governor Gray said.

Lt. Governor Gray met with CVHHH this fall to learn about the essential medical care, care coordination, and health promotion services CVHHH provides to every Central Vermonter, regardless of a person’s ability to pay and will hold a legislative roundtable with local and state representatives in December at CVHHH’s headquarters in Berlin.

Lt. Governor Gray's full letter can be read [here](#).

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