

Dear Senator Kitchel,

The **Long Term Care Crisis Coalition** is deeply concerned about Vermont's substantially diminished capacity to provide long-term care services for older and disabled Vermonters. We have come together to advocate for action. The Coalition is composed of representatives of over 200 providers of assisted living, adult day services, area agencies on aging, home health agencies, residential care homes, nursing homes, and organizations who care for Vermonters who need long term care services.

Vermont is unable to guarantee care and services to older and disabled Vermonters because of severe workforce shortages and chronic underfunding that long predates the pandemic.

We need decisive action now. Our Coalition is asking for four things:

- A substantial SFY2023 investment in long-term care services reimbursement
- Rates for services delivered at home and in the community that are reasonable, predictable, and reflect cost growth
- Substantial investments in recruiting and retaining the long-term care workforce
- Passage of H.153, which creates a mechanism to set Medicaid reimbursement rates for long term care service providers

We urge you to support these legislative and budget actions that address the increasing critical needs of the long-term care spectrum of services for older Vermonters. We ask you to prioritize the people we serve – and their families.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue further, please do not hesitate to contact our Coalition by emailing Ruby Baker at RubyB@vermontelders.org.

Sincerely,

AARP Vermont + Cathedral Square + Community of Vermont Elders + Living Well Group + Vermont Association of Adult Day Services + Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging + Vermont Catholic Charities, Inc. + Vermont Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association + Vermont Health Care Association + VNAs of Vermont