



Vermont
Association of
Area Agencies
on Aging

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Member Agencies:

CVAA
Central Vermont Council on Aging
Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging
Senior Solutions

February 12, 2016

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare,

On behalf of the five Area Agencies on Aging who serve approximately 60,000 older Vermonters across all regions of the state, I write in support of S.40, an act relating to the creation of a Vulnerable Adult Fatality Review Team. We believe this legislation is important for the following reasons:

- The purpose of the review team is to analyze deaths to determine where the system failed the individual and explore ways to improve the system so that unnecessary deaths are less likely to occur in the future.
- Individuals move between care settings, so it is important for the team to have the ability to review deaths that occur in all settings.
- Everyone who serves vulnerable adults, including the Area Agencies on Aging, may have an instance reviewed by the team. The goal of the team is not to blame providers for a failure, but rather to work together, relying on the expertise of all team members, to determine what actions they can recommend that might keep those failures from happening again.
- A system that is committed to avoiding unnecessary deaths will result in better care and better quality of life for vulnerable adults.

The Area Agencies on Aging believe that all Vermonters deserve to age with dignity and respect. A Vulnerable Adult Fatality Review Team takes an important step in ensuring this goal is a true reality in Vermont, and thus, we support S.40 and encourage you to pass it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Smith-Dieng
Executive Director