

Bullet Points for HD 412 An Act establishing a livable home modification grant program

What is in it for the commonwealth citizen?

- The proposed bill will help middle income citizens who, due to a traumatic health incident, the onset of a disease state, or who are susceptible to falls in the home, be able to afford accessibility features. This bill will allow them to be able to stay in their home and know it is safe for them. The need for this income bracket is well addressed by the attached article from Health Affairs titles **The Forgotten Middle**
- Many people go without needed modifications due to affordability. The result is injuries from falls, less ability to engage in their home and community environment and decrease in their quality of life.
- When investments of \$10,000 - \$15,000 are made into a home many people can remain living in them for several more years. A high percentage of people want to stay in their home and financially is the least costly environment. Getting up to \$5,000 grant on a home accessibility project makes a huge difference in the affordability. Rhode Island is a great example. Please see attached **testimony** from VGM Live at Home member Justin Oakley from Oakley Home Access in Narragansett RI.

What is in it for Massachusetts taxpayers?

- Without some financial support many in this income bracket are forced into congregated living environments where their assets are depleted in 18 – 36 months and require government subsidized housing. The results are many people having a very poor end of life experience and the cost of caring for these citizens is much higher than in a residential setting.
- By investing in helping people create safe environments for life long living we are creating a housing stock for future senior citizens.
- It's the right thing to do, many people due to no choice of their own may spend the last two years of their life in a long-term care setting. It is very devastating for people who have minimal cognitive deficits. It can be lonely, isolating and unpleasant. For those citizens we can and should make that experience better and save the state money at the same time. It's a situation where everyone wins.

Reference Guides