

Dear Legislators,

Our 31 year old son, Brian, has autism, is nonverbal, and has a severe congenital cardiac condition, among other challenges. My husband and I have worked hard throughout his life to keep him safe and give him every chance to become as independent and skilled as he can be. But, he still needs a lot of support and can really exhaust a single caregiver. We are very afraid for his future when we do not have what it takes to provide for his needs. It's pretty imminent really! Thinking of the time when I will pass is terrifying given the lack of stable housing for people with I/DD in Vermont. He has lived in the same South Burlington home for the last 24 years. We would like him to have the security and stability of a home that is "his", as many other confusing changes will inevitably need to happen in his world.

Thank you for passing Act 186. As part of the DDHI group, I ask that you **support the vital funding to help this extremely vulnerable population that desperately needs service-supported housing by supporting \$10.82 million for the implementation of the pilot planning grant housing and a provision for ongoing funding for development of desperately need housing for 600+ individuals.**

Sincerely,

Diane Blais