

Good afternoon:

I'm asking legislators to support \$10.82 million for the implementation of the pilot planning grant housing begun by Act 186, and to also support developing a pipeline for funding the annual development of stable, service-supported housing for adults with developmental disabilities.

Quickly, my son is 26 with Down syndrome and my wife and I are in our mid-60s. He lives at home now but clearly this is not his future. He needs a place to call his OWN home, safe and secure and in a community that knows him and supports his needs.

My oldest brother also had developmental disabilities and died last year at 76. He grew up at a time when disabled people were institutionalized. Google Fernald School, Massachusetts, and you will understand the emotional scars he lived with to his dying days. Despite everything, he never complained.

We are here to advocate that everyone in Vermont will have a safe, secure and meaningful place to live from this moment forward.

Thank you for all you do.

Tim McQuiston
Williston