

My name is Alice Blackmer and I live in Milton. My niece, Kate McKay has a severe developmental disability (cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, spastic quadriplegia, non-verbal, and deaf). Now 30, she is also one of the kindest and patient women I know. My sister and former brother in law (her parents) are aging and I fear for Kate's future.

I support the \$10.82 million for the implementation of the pilot planning grant housing begun by Act 186, and I support developing a pipeline for funding the annual development of stable, service-supported housing for adults with developmental disabilities like my Niece.

This is by far our most vulnerable population, yet they have been receiving the least attention and services from the state. This population tends to not have a voice at the table.

The State of Vermont made a promise to families when Brandon was closed in 1993 that our vulnerable loved ones would be cared for in stable and supported housing, but since then there has been virtually no money invested by the State in service-supported housing for adults with I/DD.

I hope we can count on the legislature to help remedy this urgent problem this session.

Thank you,

Alice Blackmer, Milton