

My name is Karen Price and I live in Essex. I am in the Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative, or DDHI, along with over 100 parents who like me, have an adult child with an intellectual/development disability and who will need a safe stable home to live in when his father and I can no longer care for him. My 26 year old son has a rare syndrome and will never be able to live independently due to his intellectual and medical needs. He requires help in all activities of daily living and supervision 24/7. Please support DDHI's request for \$10.82 M for the implementation of three pilot planning projects under Act 186, and the continued annual development of service supported housing for adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities until there is sufficient housing .

When the Brandon Training School closed 30 years ago, Governor Dean said, "I'm proud to maintain the commitment of the state to the very kind of services that we still owe to the population that was once at Brandon and is now in the community.

We will continue to assure that individuals receive support & services;

We will continue to assure that those services meet acceptable levels of quality;

We will continue to assure that persons receiving the services are free from abuse and neglect or mistreatment;

To assure that the folks taking care of the people needing these services have adequate training & support.

So, our commitment does not end with the closing of this institution."

That promise has not been kept. Please support \$10.82M for Implementation of the 3 Pilot grant projects, and Annual development of Service-Supported housing for adults with I/DD. These are our most vulnerable citizens. Please do not abandon them. Thank you.