

Hello legislators,

My name is Tammy Willey and I live in Jericho, VT. My 34 year-old-daughter with a developmental disability currently lives in the Shared Living model. Her home support provider turned 70-years-old last year. This housing option was and continues to be the only option available to my daughter. **I urgently request that you support 10.82 million for the implementation of the pilot planning grant housing begun by Act 186. I support developing a pipeline for funding the annual development of stable, service-supported housing for adults with developmental disabilities.**

I believe our most vulnerable citizens need options for housing and care. We currently don't have options. Many aging parents continue to care for their adult children in their own homes rather than ask for a spot with a Shared Living Provider. There are several reasons for this--there aren't enough people willing to be Shared Living Providers and oversight is frighteningly minimal. Additionally, in this state we have effectively traded the one-size-fits-all institutionalized living to the one-option-for-all Shared Living model. This hasn't changed since 1993. Please push for change by supporting the funding in 2024.

Thank you,

Tammy and Jordan Willey

Additional information for your consideration:

\*\*Since closing Brandon in 1993, there has been virtually no money invested by the State in service supported housing for adults with I/DD.

\*\*The State of Vermont needs to immediately create 602 new units of service supported housing. (2023 VTDDC Housing Research Brief)

\*\* 9% of individuals who have I/DD are either homeless or at risk of homelessness. (Vermont Care Partners)

\*\*The State of Vermont failed to meet their obligations under Federal Medicaid Rules, and now have 2 Corrective Action Plans to demonstrate that HCBS recipients have true choice, including choices in housing. The three Act 186 Pilot Planning Grants are contained in the latest Corrective Action Plan. DAIL did not request funding for building the Planning Grant projects.

\*\*1999 Olmstead Act directed states to develop a fiscal plan to include housing for people with I/DD in their state budgets, yet there are no targets in Vermont.

\*\*Our adults with developmental disabilities family members have HCBS funding provided by Medicaid for services, as well as entitlement benefits (SSA benefits). This makes them more stable long-term tenants as well as costing fewer state dollars than other populations that have been repeatedly funded over the years.