

My name is Cynthia Haviland. I'm 64 yo. Lived in VT since 1989. And until March 30th I'm living in a friend's apt, while they're in FL.

but then beginning April 1 I have no idea where I'm going to live

For the past 19 years I lived, and raised my son, in Richmond, However, near the 1st of Nov my landlord showed up with a Notice of Termination for NO CAUSE from

my apartment of over 5 years, where I had a stellar record of tenancy. I had to be out by Dec 31st

I started looking for a one bedroom apt the day I got my Notice of Termination. Although I would like to have a place where my son could live with me part time, a 2BR apt is now totally out of my income reach .

Then, I learned there would not even be an affordable 1BR available before I had to be out. So, after the circus that is moving, while working, over Christmas while breaking up the 22yo family that was me and my child... I finally got back to my permanent housing search just after the New Year and...

For the first time in my life,...I never thought I would say this...I'm actually happy to be designated as a senior,

as it appears that subsidized senior housing is going to be my only option.

Although I lost a month of my temp housing while trying to make sense (with a Master Degree) of all the complex subsidy and senior housing whys and wheres. I'm now on all feasible wait lists in Chittenden Co, but don't yet know if I'll qualify for subsidy. I continue to look for apts across many housing sites and through extensive word of mouth.

I'm not that picky, I don't want a mansion. I WOULD like to be relatively near Richmond; it's the community I've lived in the longest.

And is it a sin to say I prefer not to have to share housing?

So, my housing clock is ticking while I anxiously wait. I can wait... well after hearing from Nancy from Cathedral sq. I'm not sure.... but

(Heck... I've worked with children all my life)...

but...I have some questions both real and rhetorical..

Where I am supposed to live for possibly the next 12- 60 months while I wait?

I wonder while I wait, if I will have to deplete my small savings I reserved from leaving a Domestically Violent partner with my toddler years ago

AND use up a tiny pension I have coming from my under paying career in education...

all the while PAYING for my belongings to be in storage...

I wonder if I will have to leave my son,

my friends, my medical support systems, my job, my hobbies, and move out of VT? Pause

And although I would never equate my current situation with someone who is defined as homeless by the VT subsidy guidelines, I do wonder if the definition needs to be revised? Perhaps our current definition is not board enough for the housing situation, in VT, at this juncture. Because.... although I'm staying in a house, I feel pretty homeless... and from how behind building new housing is

unaffordable and unavailable will probably force me away

I do thank the committee for this work and NOW await a miracle.