

To: Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs

We have a 24-year-old son, **Tiernan**, with Koolen-de Vries Syndrome. He was diagnosed with intellectual disability/autism as a young child. It wasn't until 2021 that we received a genetic diagnosis for his disability. He has intellectual, motor, and speech deficits, and epilepsy. He requires 24/7 supervision and help with all activities of daily living. He cannot be relied upon to communicate discomfort or pain. Tiernan is a gentle and sweet soul and loves music, dancing, and different adaptive sports. He graduated from high school in 2019 and left behind a life of inclusion, activity, and peer interactions. Now, the vast majority of his life is spent with his aging parents, as direct service professionals have been virtually impossible to find. When we are no longer able to care for him, Tiernan will need a housing situation which is safe and stable. Vermont's Shared Living Provider (essentially adult foster care) offering for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities is the **ONLY** option available to him. Living in a series of houses will only confuse him. He needs a home. We **ALL** value stability of place; we all need to feel safe. How can we deny that same need for our most vulnerable adult children?

Robert and Karen Price