

My name is Carol Cincotta. I've lived in Vermont for the past 60 years and currently reside in South Burlington. I'm writing in support of much needed resources for not only my friend Joey Mumley, but for all adults living with Intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Joey's grandparents are my neighbors. While I've watched Joey grow up in a loving and supportive environment, I often wondered how Joey could possibly live on his own without their support. Sadly, I now understand that resources for someone like Joey are scarce, especially when individuals with I/DD become adults. I find this appalling. We can, and should, do better.

I believe in the current budget process you are considering investing \$10.82 million for the implementation of three pilot grant housing projects:

1. Waterbury – 4 units = \$2.2 million
2. Randolph – 4 Units = \$1.2 million
3. Burlington – 10 units = \$3.92 million
  - a. Riverflow (2<sup>nd</sup> phase) – 12 units = \$3.5 million

Let me start by saying, I fully support the investment of \$10.82 million for these projects. Even more, I support conducting a full assessment of services and housing needs for I/DD residents of VT and then, investing in projects to meet the demands. From what I've been told, (again, I would like a full and reliable assessment) VT needs in excess of 600 service supported housing and nearly 10% of individuals with I/DD are either homeless or at risk of homelessness.

We have a responsibility to care for our most vulnerable members of our community. Beyond merely adhering to State and Federal mandates, we should do anything we can to ensure these individuals can lead productive lives and not fall victim to a failed system.

Thank you for your service to our community and thank you for considering my concerns.

Carol Cincotta