

Thank you for letting me give testimony today.
My name is Ellen Riley. I am from Moretown and have a 26 year old son with Down Syndrome.

I am 69 yrs old, retired, and up until one week ago was taking care of my son full time, managing every aspect of his life, making sure it was intergraded with his community, was active and meaningful, that he was having as close as possible, the same opportunities as his 26 year old neurotypical peers.

I cannot continue to care for and manage my son in my aging years. Since no options for housing other than Shared Living in someone else's home (foster care) is provided in Vermont, we took a mortgage on our house and cashed in our retirement savings to purchase a small carriage house for my son to live independent of us.

Parents should not have to cash in their old age security to provide a housing option other than what the State of Vermont provides.

It is absolutely imperative that the Act 186 pilot grants for the development of service supported housing models be funded, AND, a pipeline of funding be established for the building of many more projects throughout the years to come.

The State of Vermont is out of compliance and must build housing options for the DD/ID population in Vermont. We could lose of Medicaid funding! There are over 602 young adults and adults on HCBS who are in immediate need of housing.

This years budget must allocate sufficient funding to building housing options for our ID/DD population!!!

Respectfully
Ellen Riley