

My name is Gerry Cincotta, and I work at Dealer.com/Cox Auto in Burlington. I was born and raised in Vermont, and except for attending college in upstate NY and spending my 20s in Boston...I am a lifelong resident of the state.

In 2005, I adopted my 2nd child...an African-American boy who was born in Philadelphia (the first child I adopted is also African-American, born in Philadelphia). At the age of 4, my son, Andy, was diagnosed with Autism. I have secured whatever support/tutoring/training that Vermont has to offer, and have also spent thousands of dollars with private organizations to work with Andy. He graduated from Essex High School in the Spring of 2023, and I'm hopeful he will start taking online classes at Landmark College...with the ultimate goal of having him matriculate on campus at some point during his college career.

I'm 58, and my wife turns 62 in April. I'm saving as much money for him as possible, but am worried about what will happen to Andy when me and my wife are no longer here. The current options are limited. We are fortunate that we have been able to provide Andy with so much support, but I'm sure there are countless others in Andy's situation who aren't as fortunate. I know Vermont is a small state with a relatively small number of taxpayers...and has many fiscal concerns. But the role of government (besides defending our borders and entitlement programs) is to help take care of its citizens who cannot take care of themselves, including the very young, the very old, and those with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities.

More must be done for adults facing challenges like Andy's. As these folks cycle into adulthood, the available programs diminish. It's not right. The state needs to do more. I'm happy to speak with people about this, testify in Montpelier, etc. Just let me know

Regards,

Gerry Cincotta