

Dear Folks who work on housing in Vermont,

I am writing on behalf of our daughter Katie, age 32, who is developmentally delayed and Autistic. Through the years as we have used our Medicaid waiver with Agencies in Vermont such as Community Access Program in Rutland and Counseling Services of Addison County, we have found limited housing options for our daughter.

These designated Agencies offer shared living providers as the primary option for supported living. Our daughter has lived with a number of these families but we have found that they don't stand the test of time. When a provider gets a new job or crosses a boundary or has to take a leave, our daughter has to move.

Katie enjoyed 6 months in a rare group home with CSAC in Middlebury. She lost that placement when she became sick for longer than six months.

I'm writing today to advocate for more group homes for developmentally delayed adults in Vermont. Our daughter and her friends enjoy and do best living with others. Many DD folks do well with shared living, but there should be a choice of shared living or group home.

Jackie Gauthier