

Hello,

My name is Sophie DeCarolis and I am from Burlington, VT. I have an older sister Emily who has down syndrome. As Emily has gotten older and entered adulthood the lack of housing has become a scary topic as my parents are aging and will not be able to care for her in the next few years. Since the closing of Brandon in 1993 there has been little money invested by the state in service supported housing. Something needs to be done. There are over 600 families with adults children that have no where to live and that is unacceptable. I am in full support of the 10.82 million dollars that is needed for the implementation of the pivot planning grant housing begun by act 186 and the development of a pipeline for funding the annual development of stable, service-supported housing for adults with developmental disabilities.

My sister deserves to live in a safe home surrounded by friends and a community of her own where she doesn't need to worry about being uprooted every year. She as well as all her peers need options and Vermont has failed this community. This is by far the MOST vulnerable population, yet they have been receiving the least attention and services from the state. Vermont needs to do better and I will continue to fight for my sister as well as her peers till something is done.

Thank you,

Sophie DeCarolis