

Hello. My name is Sally Ballin. I live in a Cathedral Square apartment, Allard Square, in South Burlington.

I'm appealing to you today to support full funding for affordable housing through the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and also funding to continue and expand the SASH services program which benefits so many senior citizens like me.

I've been living in this wonderful place since it opened just over three years ago. I had a two-bedroom condo in Burlington for 21 years, and I was happy that a young couple bought it, moved in, and started a family there. I was glad to free up housing for that family and to free myself of the costs and responsibilities of home ownership. I needed a simpler life. I downsized and move into an affordable apartment, thanks to Cathedral Square.

Allard Square is a little village. I know all my neighbors on my floor. We've become good friends and look out for each other. I feel safe and comfortable here, supported by the convenience of the location and the staff who are available, if I need help. If need be, I can check in with the SASH nurse rather than straight to my doctor.

I am nearly 80 years old. I really don't know where I would be if there were not a place like Allard Square. I'm very grateful for this place. I hope you will see fit to continue supporting safe, affordable, available housing for old people like me and my neighbors.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our state.