## JTDDC

## How an ABLE savings account could fix our future.

My name is Terry. I am a horse rescuer, a biker-chick, a renaissance woman, and a mom of a young man with autism.

I also have Multiple Sclerosis (MS), which means my immune system is attacking my brain. It's hard to move or remember things. Even though I was born with my disability, I wasn't diagnosed until my 40's.

My disability qualifies me for Social Security Income and Medicaid, but there are strings attached.

If I save too much money I'll lose my benefits. If I don't save enough money I can't pay my mechanic or town taxes. People whose disabilities are diagnosed before they turn 26 can open an ABLE savings account AND keep their benefits. Why can't I do the same?

The ABLE Act must expand the age of eligibility to include people who are diagnosed later in life.

Terry Holden. 2020. Jeffersonville, Vermont.



"HELLO, NEIGHBOR." Stories from real Vermonters brought to you by the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

Ento,

Having a disability at

any age shouldn't be

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## **Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council**



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