

Dear Legislators,

As you prepare the FY25 Budget, I ask that you SUPPORT \$10.82 million for the implementation of the housing pilots for adults with developmental disabilities begun with planning grants from Act 186. Furthermore, I ask that you support funding the annual development of stable, service-supported housing for adults with developmental disabilities. Those Act 187 pilot projects are just a first learning step towards creating a robust network of community-based, collective housing opportunities with support staff for developmentally disabled adults who require substantial care. Estimates suggest that over 600 placements are needed statewide right now. My daughter Sarah turns 21 next month. She has a huge smile, loves dancing and music, and craves social interaction with friends. She also has Down Syndrome and several serious medical conditions and language challenges that together require 24-7 care. Right now, there is really nowhere for her to live in Vermont when I am unable to fill those needs. Please do not forget her, and other such vulnerable adults as you consider expansion of low cost housing options in Vermont.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Sarah and others with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Cecilia Danks