

As you prepare the FY25 Budget, please include \$10.82 million to support 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. The 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 friend Cecilia who lives in Richmond has a daughter Sarah who turns 21 next month. I've known both Cecilia and Sarah for more than a decade. Cecilia is a dedicated single Mom who has kept Sarah at the center of her life since her birth. Their bond is strong and Sarah is well loved. She is a curious and social youth who loves doing large floor puzzles, dancing, music, and celebrating birthdays with our circle friends. She has Down Syndrome and several serious medical conditions and language challenges that together require 24-7 care. Right now, there is nowhere for her to live in Vermont when Cecilia is unable to fill her needs. Please prioritize support for Sarah, 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.

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