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February 16, 2024

Vermont Legislature
Montpelier, Vermont

Dear Legislators,

This letter is being written on behalf of my daughter. I am requesting that the Fiscal 2025 budget include \$10.8 million to implement Act 186 three pilot grants as well as annual development of further service supported housing projects.

It is estimated that 602 individuals who now or in the near future are in need of choices to live with or near their peers with service supported housing. I'm a member of a group of over 100 families called Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative working together towards this goal. We have assessed our adults for needs, choices, and have looked at housing options outside of Vermont for examples of supported housing that might fit our family members with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Since the closing of Brandon in 1993, virtually no money has been invested into service supported housing for adults with developmental disabilities. Basically there have been no choices except shared living providers which is no more than foster care in someone else's home. The state of Vermont has failed to meet their obligations under Federal Medicaid Rules to demonstrate that these individuals have true choices in housing. The three Act 186 Pilot Planning Grants are contained in the latest Corrective Action Plan, however DAIL did not request funding for building the Planning Grant projects. This is just a beginning to prevent homelessness in these vulnerable individuals.

Our daughter has autism. She is 42 years old. She is unable to fully care for herself, is vulnerable, has medical issues, requires medication and is immunocompromised. We, her parents, are concerned what will happen to her after we are gone.

One type of housing doesn't fit all individuals with developmental disabilities and multiple types of living situations need to be developed with service-supported housing to meet their individual needs and choices.

Please support funding of \$10.8 million for development of the three Pilot Grant Projects as well as annual development of Service-Supported Housing for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Sincerely yours,

Georgann Pedrotty