

I am a close friend of an adult (and his parents) with a developmental disability. This man lives with his aging parents. I witness the stress and concern his parents experience on a daily basis wondering what will happen to their beloved son when they are no longer able to care for him.

I am writing this email in support of 10.82 million for the implementation of the pilot planning grant housing begun by Act 186 and I support developing a pipeline for funding the annual development of stable, service-supported housing for adults with developmental disabilities.

The state is in desperate and immediate need of service supported housing for adults with Developmental Disabilities. This population is the MOST vulnerable population, yet they have been receiving the least attention and services from the state. They often are NOT able to have a voice of their own at the table.

1999 Olmstead Act directed states to develop a fiscal plan to include housing for people with I/DD in their state budgets, yet there are no targets in Vermont.

Adults with DD are either homeless, at risk of homelessness, or have aging parents who will not always be able to care for them.

I urge you to take this matter seriously in support of my personal friends and **all** individuals with I/DD and their families.

Sincerely
Susan Empie
Richmond, VT