

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY RE: *FY2025 Budget***  
*FROM: DARLENE JENSON, 216 Williams Street,*  
*Brattleboro, VT 05301*

TO VERMONT LEGISLATORS:

My name is Darlene Jenson, I live in Brattleboro, in Windham County. I have a 30 year old son, with Cerebral Palsy and Intellectual Disabilities. I have been part of the Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative (DDHI) since it's inception, working diligently with 100 other parents to secure housing options for our adult children with significant needs.

I am in support of the request for : *\$9M for Implementation of the 3 Pilot grant projects, and Annual development of Service-Supported housing for adults with I/DD.*

The 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. The State of Vermont failed to meet their obligations under Federal Medicaid Rules, and now have 2 Corrective Action Plans to demonstrate that HCBS recipients have true choice, including 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.

My family member has HCBS funding provided by Medicaid for services, and access to entitlement benefits (SSA benefits) for ongoing housing costs. I only are asking for what is best for my adult child as I as grow older. I want reassurance that specific housing options will be in place to insure that my son will have viable housing options that will meet his intensive needs before I become too old to care for him and certainly before I die.

Please consider supporting the *\$9M for Implementation of the 3 Pilot grant projects, and Annual development of Service-Supported housing for adults with I/DD.*

Thank you for your time today and your continued service to our State of Vermont.

Sincerely,

Darlene Jenson

216 Williams Street, Brattleboro VT 05301

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