

To the Members of the House and Senate Appropriations
Committees,

My name is Ed Townley, I am 67 years old, live in Williston, and have a son who is 26 years old with an intellectual and developmental disability. He currently lives at home with my wife and me and has a need for service-supported housing.

Since closing Brandon in 1993, there has been little money invested by the State in service-supported housing for adults with I/DD. Promises were made when Brandon was closed that adults with I/DD would be better taken care of in the future. These promises have never been fulfilled and as a result adults, like my son, with I/DD are left with no choice in a broken system.

The majority of our adult children with I/DD currently live with their parents like my son, however they would like to live in the community they grew up in with friends they have been with since grammar school. I would like to see them have a choice about what and where their permanent housing arrangement would be. My son currently works 12 hours per week for Special Olympics of Vermont and with staff supported housing in Williston could successfully move out to live with a group of his friends. In order to achieve the goal of service-supported housing, DDHI is requesting \$10.82 million from the legislative body for implementation of the 3 Act 186 Pilot grant projects, and Annual development of Service-Supported housing for adults with I/DD.

I am asking that you include \$10.82M for Implementation of the 3 Act 186 Pilot grant projects in the FY2025 budget, and annual development of Service-Supported housing for adults with I/DD.

Thank-you for your consideration, Ed Townley