

I am Elizabeth Campbell from Shelburne, and am the mother of a 26-year-old son who has Down syndrome and whose significant cognitive disabilities require that he has 24/7 oversight for his entire life. Since closing Brandon Training School over 30 years ago, adults like my son have had no other housing option other than Shared Living (adult foster care), once their aging parents are no longer able to care for them at home. For someone like my son, who thrives on stability, routine and in the company of peers, adult foster care would mean he would spend his adult life as a lonely guest in a series of stranger's homes, unable to adequately express if he was neglected or exploited in any way.

Parents like me are desperate to secure stable housing options for our adult children beyond the adult foster care model, and simply cannot do it without the state's financial support of bricks and mortar construction. I am, along with another family, a recipient of an ACT 186 pilot planning grant and we are working relentlessly to develop an intentional community in Monkton, for up to 16 adults with significant developmental disabilities.

If you believe, as I do, that caring for the most vulnerable adults among us is a fundamental responsibility of a civilized culture, than I wholeheartedly request your support of the state's provision of \$10 million to help build the housing models proposed in the three ACT 186 pilot planning grants, and that you support developing a pipeline for funding the annual development of stable, service-supported housing for adults with developmental disabilities.