

My name is John Cincotta and I live in Essex, Vermont. I am writing in support of the need to provide adults with developmental disabilities the ability to live in a community with their peers.

I have a niece with a development disability who lives in Connecticut. She has been blessed with the opportunity to live in a community of her peers which has enhanced her quality of life and independence. The community provides a level of support and a secure living environment. I believe Vermont adults living with disabilities should have the same opportunity.

Therefore, I support the Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative project including the FY25 budget request for \$10.82M for implementation of the 3 pilot grant projects and the annual development of service-supported housing for adults with I/DD. The 1999 Olmsted Act directed states to develop a fiscal plan to include housing for people with I/DD in their state budgets, but Vermont has yet to establish any targets. We need to do more to assist Vermonters with I/DD.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

John Cincotta