

Dear Vermont Legislature,

I am the mother and guardian of a son with Down syndrome and Autism (Pervasive Developmental Delay, diagnosed at age 3). Patrick is 31 years old , lives with us, and requires 24/7 care and supervision. My husband Terence and I are concerned about his future housing and support once we are no longer able to care for him.

I would like to share my personal input for a desired housing model in The Converse Home ,Burlington, Vt. When our mother experienced decline due to Alzheimer's Disease, my siblings and I felt tremendous peace of mind upon entrusting her care to The Converse Home staff (notably, the memory unit) , for the 24/7 safe , service supported housing she required and deserved.

As an RN I had the unique privilege to observe Patrick, always comfortable, while visiting his grandmother in this secure professional setting. Through the 4 years of her residency there, I often felt that this would be an ideal home atmosphere for Patrick as he ages. This location not only accommodates individuals with and without changing health needs through assisted living , but also affords a downtown housing model with medical supervision, daily meals and enriching activities.

I am writing today to ask for your support (\$9 million) for implementation of the three pilot grant projects and annual development of service supported housing for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The State of Vermont needs to develop 602 new units of service supported housing for individuals who , like our son , have I/DD.

Please help us create a secure future for our adult son and others by provision of the necessary funding in the FY2025 Budget for service supported housing.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Connor Lynch RN