

Good morning,

My name is Shea Savage and I am writing today to request that the Vermont Legislature allocate **\$10.82 million for the creation of long-term, service-supported housing options for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.** Vermont currently has only two options for its intellectually and developmentally disabled adult population: continue to live with and be cared for by their families - often by aging parents and in households struggling with poverty - or placement in the Shared Living Provider system, which has been recently revealed to be rife with stories of abuse and neglect.

In the past year, Act 186 has established three Pilot Grant Projects to begin setting Vermont on the pathway toward providing multiple safe and reliable housing choices for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I ask that the Vermont Legislature make the implementation of these pilot projects a priority in fiscal year 2025.

As a sibling of a young adult with developmental disabilities, I know firsthand the way that the lack of housing options impact the disabled community, as well as their friends and families. Vermonters with disabilities deserve to live in connection with each other, in safe homes, without fear of neglect and abuse and without the need to relocate out of state. **Again, I ask that the Legislature's FY25 budget include \$10.82 million to implement the Pilot Grant Projects, in order to address this major oversight.**

Thank you for your consideration regarding this important issue.

All best,
Shea Savage