

To: Members of The Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs and the House Committee on General and Housing

I am a parent of an adult with developmental disabilities and am a member of the parent-run Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative (DDHI). We are a group of over 100 parents of adults who will never live independently due to their lifelong intellectual and/or developmental disability (I/DD). Once we are no longer able to care for our adult sons and daughters, they will likely end up in Vermont Developmental Disabilities Services Division adult foster care, called "Shared Living." For those who have higher support needs, Shared Living - living in a series of other people's homes - is chronically destabilizing. This model lacks the permanence, security, and stability our family members need.

Our I/DD community desperately needs the development of housing options that address the range of needs and provide choices. We ask that the state prioritize the needs of these most vulnerable Vermonters and support the development of stable, service-supported housing within the funding for affordable housing in our communities. The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rules mandate choices for stable housing. I urge you to take action to support the development of housing for the most needy and vulnerable of Vermonters.

Sincerely,
Collins Twing
Chelsea, Vermont