

Hello,

I am writing testimony to advocate for housing for adults with developmental disabilities. My daughter Emily is 34 and has Down Syndrome. Her father and I are aging and are no longer in a position to care for her in our homes. The only option for Emily is a Shared Living Provider situation which is essentially Adult Foster Care. She would not have any permanency in her housing as the providers and homes will change frequently. She has lived most of her life in Burlington and has a community of family, neighbors and friends that enrich her life. I do not want to have to send her out of her community in order for her to have a stable, supported living situation.

We all appreciated the current housing crisis that is impacting so many Vermonters, but I would like my daughter Emily, and other adults with developmental disabilities not to be forgotten when decisions are made in Montpelier. Our children deserve a safe, supported and permanent home within their communities.

Thank you,

Katie Tormey