

01/22/2025

My name is Bennett Townley and I am 26 years old and have a developmental disability and other diagnoses. I live in Williston with my aging folks because there are no affordable service-supported housing options for me to live with my friends. I'm writing to ask for funding of \$2.8 million for Champlain Housing Trust to complete construction of the Act 186 housing for adults with I/DD. This project creates the pathways my friends with IDD and I need for the housing choice we desire.

I want to have a choice in where I live, who I live with, and how I want to live and want to have a place to call home that I can afford and is not my folk's place or a group home. I want the opportunity to have the same opportunities that others my age experience but still have support and a safety net. I ask you to please commit \$2.8 million in the Budget Adjustment Act because this will create 10 units for adults with IDD who are on the HCBS waiver to live because 600+ units are needed. This will help keep myself and my friends having choice on housing and worse, off the streets.

Thank you for your service to all Vermonters and for considering my input on how important it is to me to have affordable service-supported housing units for my friends and I with IDD, as the funding provides a pathway for us to live more independently with support when we need it and also be more included in our communities.