

My name is Beth Davis, and I live in Shoreham with my husband Mike and our son Craig. I'm writing in strong support for the budget adjustment act to include \$2.8 million for Champlain Housing Trust to complete the construction of Act 186 Housing for people with disabilities.

Our son Craig Davis is 41 years old, with Asperger's Syndrome. Craig has lived with two shared living providers and in a group home. However, neither of these models are a good fit for him, either because they restrict his access to the community, or they are too restrictive with unnecessary rules. In the case of the group home, there was very little sound insulation in an old house which caused severe sensory issues and undue stress for him. It was an untenable situation for him, and his psychiatrist insisted that living in the group home was detrimental to his emotional and psychological health. He has lived with us now for three years, because there are currently no housing choices in our community. My husband and I are both retired, aging quickly, and we did not imagine that our retirement years would include looking after our adult son.

The legislature provided some funding two sessions ago to look at better and more creative housing options for Vermonters like Craig. Organizations like the Champlain Housing Trust can provide those essential options if the legislature follows through with its commitment. Otherwise, that initial funding will have been wasted.

Please, please let the CHT complete this construction to allow for at least a small fraction of the housing that's needed for Vermonters with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Governor Dean promised this when the Brandon Training School was closed, and it has never come to pass. The legislature can begin to right that wrong now with this funding.

Here's a photo of Craig so you can see one of the Vermonters who would benefit from your wisdom and sense of justice.

