

I am writing on behalf of my 31-year-old daughter who currently lives in a single-family care home in St. Albans. She is Deaf and is wheelchair bound due to cerebral palsy, a young woman with inspiring resilience and social engagement. Due to her disabilities, she has difficulty advocating for her basic human rights. Nevertheless, she has made it clear that she would like to live in a thriving environment of peers, supported by trained staff, within an accepting and actively supportive community. Although we have nothing but praise for the dedicated staff and caregivers who currently provide for her, she wants and deserves so much more to achieve her full potential as a Vermont citizen contributing to the diverse culture we all embrace.

We urgently support the request for a grant of \$2.8M to the Champlain Housing Trust project for development and construction of collective housing for Vermonters living with disabilities. Many in this population have difficulty advocating for their own rights and needs, but this is no excuse for failing to act on their behalf.

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