

My name is Ellen McKay Jewett and I live in Middlebury. I'm writing in strong support for the budget adjustment act to include \$2.8 million for Champlain Housing Trust to complete construction of Act 186 Housing for people with disabilities.

Our daughter Kate McKay is 31 years old, Deaf and non-verbal, with spastic quadriplegia resulting from cerebral palsy. She has lived with a series of homecare providers ever since she graduated from the American School for the Deaf when she was 22. But she is always at the mercy of those folks getting burned out and deciding to leave those very difficult jobs. And then Kate becomes homeless, and we must try to locate another household for her to join. Those situations are sometimes good, and just as often not good. Abuse and neglect happen way too often.

The legislature provided some funding two sessions ago to look at better housing options for Vermonters like Kate. 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 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 Kate so you can see one of the Vermonters who would benefit from your wisdom and sense of justice.



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