

My name is Laurie Mumley and I live in Shelburne, Vermont. I am providing testimony today in strong support for the budget adjustment act to include -at a bare minimum- \$2.8 Million for Champlain Housing Trust (CHT) to complete construction of Act 186 Housing for people with developmental disabilities..

My son Joey is 22 years old. He is autistic, with communication challenges, sensory challenges, and behavioral issues. He requires 24/7 care. I am a rapidly aging single parent on a fixed income. I cannot work due to his needs. This is not sustainable. In any case, I am not immortal. Adult foster care is not appropriate for someone with his level of need and that is currently Vermont's only option. He would be at very high risk for abuse and neglect, and that particular model is inherently unstable so does not meet his need for permanent housing.

Joey was extremely successful attending his last few years of high school in an out of state residential educational program. He absolutely thrived surrounded by peers in a structured environment . He wants, needs, and deserves housing in his community that is safe, stable, service-supported and with peers.

We are currently having to explore out of state housing options (which will cost Vermont taxpayers MUCH more in the long run).

Adults with Developmental Disabilities and moderate to high support needs have been underfunded and ignored in this state, yet they are one of our most vulnerable populations. We need to finish the CHT project and begin other projects to house this relatively small (602) but extremely high risk group.

Thank you for your support of the 2.8 million for the Champlain Housing Trust's Act 186 housing.

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