

Dear Members of the House Committee on Appropriations:

My name is Barbara Dooling and I am providing written testimony as to why it is imperative that there be more choices in housing for adults with developmental disabilities.

I am a widow and sole caregiver (guardian) for my two sons, Karl and Kyle, both of whom are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and ADHD. Also, I will be 70 in April and being a senior citizen causes me a lot of anxiety as to what will happen to Karl and Kyle when I can no longer care for them.

As a member of DDHI, I respectfully ask for the following:

A new permanent position at DAIL to support housing development and housing process for participants in Home- and Community-Based Services.

New funding for Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to develop I/DD service-supported housing.

New funding for Bridge Rental Assistance.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Respectfully,

Barbara Dooling