



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

1. HOUSING FOR ALL!

- **Direct the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board** to prioritize housing for people with disabilities.

Why? According to the Act 186 Housing Report, Vermont needs more than 600 units of service-supported housing for adults currently served by Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS). These include people with disabilities living with older parents who can no longer care for them and those living in temporary and inappropriate settings.



- **Fund new housing** for adults with disabilities.

Why? Act 186 of 2022 provided planning grants for 3 new projects. One of these pilots still needs funding to be built.

- **Update rules** that slow down housing development.

Why? The current rules are over 30 years old. The rules block new housing solutions.

2. MEDICAID JUSTICE!

- **Medicaid-Funded Service Providers** need a living wage and yearly rate reviews.



Why? The services the State provides people with disabilities are funded by Medicaid. The State does not review and adjust the rates yearly. As a result, Medicaid-funded service providers, like designated and specialized services agencies, have a lot of vacant staff positions and a high rate of staff turnover.

3. INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS!

- **Ensure students with disabilities receive the services they need.**

Why? Students with disabilities have the right to receive the services they need to succeed. Vermont school systems are not providing necessary services.

- **Support students with disabilities** by reducing the use of exclusionary discipline, restraint and seclusion.



Why? Students with disabilities are removed from schools and classrooms at a higher rate than students without disabilities. Discipline that removes students from schools and classrooms is linked to higher rates of arrests and increased interactions with police. This situation is sometimes described as the school to prison pipeline.

4. HEALTHCARE FOR ALL!

- **Improve access to Health Care Services** in Vermont for people with disabilities.



Why? People with disabilities have poor health when compared to people without disabilities. For example, rates of cancer, heart disease, asthma, and diabetes are two to two and a half times higher for Vermonters with disabilities than the general population. People with disabilities also have more difficulty accessing appropriate primary care, dental care, mental health services, and health information.



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