

McCall, Brandon

From: greatandpowerfulmom@cox.net
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 10:37 PM
To: HSGTestimony
Subject: Senate Bill 364 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING INITIATIVE STATUTE.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing to support the idea that DDS should be participating in supportive housing initiatives to benefit its clients, and I am writing especially on behalf of a particular group of people: adults with autism who are in need of services from the DDS Autism Division.

I am the mother of a 21-year old son with autism. His name is Andy. He has extremely inadequate language ability (bottom 2%), but because his full scale i.q. measures in the low 70's, he is not considered intellectually disabled, despite the fact that he will never be able to live independently, completely support himself, or manage his own affairs. He is on the waiting list for services from the autism division, but is currently receiving no services, except for occasional contact with BRS, which is attempting to help him find a part-time job.

Andy's future is an enormous worry for his father and me. He is naive and vulnerable. We do not know what will happen to him or where he will live when we are gone. While I have a lot of sympathy for the parents protesting the recently established "age in place" policy, I need to point out that for people like my son Andy the state currently makes NO PROVISION AT ALL for housing, ever, NOT EVEN IN AN EMERGENCY! If my husband and I were suddenly killed in a car accident or something, Andy's sister, a struggling artist, would have to care for him, and if she couldn't do it, he would be homeless. A person like my son, through no fault of his own, is just as incapable of keeping a roof over his or her own head as someone who meets the statutory definition of intellectual disability, and in my opinion, he is more deserving than drug addicts or alcoholics who already get this kind of help.

So, my hope is that DDS will be enabled to participate in supportive housing initiatives, AND if it is so enabled I hope it will give some consideration to the many adults with autism who need supportive housing, because this need will not just go away if we ignore it.

Elizabeth Zownir
61 Avondale Rd.
Manchester, CT 06042

860-643-2540