

To Whom It May Concern:

My daughter has been in a shared living arrangement for 1 1/2 years. She was with me for almost 41 years. The transition for her was easy because she felt as though she now had her own place to call home. I did not want her in a group home or any other such facility because knowing how those places are run. Besides the constant change of staff and at times having to co-exist with consumers with behavioral problems and tendency towards aggression, I knew that this arrangement would work best for my daughter who has Downs Syndrome. I have seen how much my daughter's acquaintances have deteriorated since moving into a group home. My daughter takes pride in keeping her home clean and enjoys the company of her roommate who is there to help with things that my daughter is incapable of doing.

This arrangement has been wonderful for her. Much better than what I've witnessed with special needs consumers going into group homes. She has become a person who is able to take responsibility and is extremely happy in her environment. Doesn't display the behavioral problems of consumers in group homes or nursing homes. She is thriving in this arrangement. Knowing she is happy and functioning to her full capabilities is what I feel she deserves and is entitled to as someone who is unable to have a voice.

I am asking that you don't take this away from her by taking away the funding that I have spent so many years fighting for. It has been shown that this arrangement requires less funding than group homes and nursing homes.

Please reconsider cuts to Shared Living arrangements.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]