

My daughter has a mental illness; she will be fifty years old next year.

For the last thirteen years, she has lived away from me, and has struggled to find stable housing. She used her Social Security disability payment of \$700 for rent and utilities. Over time, she struggled with landlords that would raise the rent as soon as she moved in, keep her security deposit, and issue rules that were unreasonable. She finally had to move to shared housing as the only affordable option. The landlord problems continued, and other roommates had issues of drug addiction, alcoholism, and domestic violence. The constant uproar always set my daughter back, and she was close to being hospitalized. I traveled to be with her, and saw her mental health deteriorating, though she remained faithful to her medications, even as they kept changing, and she worked to get regular exercise.

Finally, she was able to get into housing that provides a healthy and peaceful environment. Her psychiatrist sees a lot of improvement. She no longer has to see him regularly to address the extreme anxiety due to harassment, or the witnessing of violence or substance abuse in her household

Stable housing for the mentally ill will mean lesser amounts of taxpayers money for recurrent medical issues, visits from law enforcement and others for welfare checks, and additional medications and hospitalizations for situations that could have been avoided. This is not to mention that a civilized society provides for the least of its people out of a sense of responsibility and compassion.

I encourage you to do all you can to address the housing needs of the mentally ill. There is NO downside to this effort. Please support House Bill 3063. Thank you.

Linda Dunn