



To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to my attention that there has been talk about cutting funds for the Shared Support program. I cannot express how horrible it would be to lose this program.

My brother, [REDACTED], just recently moved into an apartment with a roommate and it's been the best thing that's happened to him. He's wanted to move out ever since an attempt at Supported Living didn't work out. That was his biggest goal in life and he finally achieved it. I will never forget how he reacted when my parents told him that he had got an apartment. He grabbed my dad and sobbed hysterically. I have never seen him react that intensely to anything else which gives credit to how much it meant to him.

My brother strives to live his life as normally as any other 30 yr. old and that's all I want for him as well. Life Sharing was brought up to [REDACTED] and he seemed almost insulted at the idea. He didn't understand why he'd be going to live with another family when he already had one that he wouldn't trade for anything. I can understand how [REDACTED] would feel like we were just pushing him off to another family. I'm not sure I even understand the benefits of it. There is no independence gained and nothing has really changed.

The Shared Support program has many benefits which is the reason it fit for him. Living on your own is such a simple and routine concept to many but to my brother it's the biggest step towards normalcy he might get. I understand how difficult something like this can be to understand unless you're living it but this is and may be the biggest dream that my brother will be able to fulfill and it is devastating for me to think that it could be taken away from him.