

WEBVTT

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00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:01.020

Liz ONeill: Box, so we must.

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00:00:01.670 --> 00:00:28.690

Liz ONeill: Hi! Welcome everybody to the a team meeting. We have a special guest tonight. We're excited about Senator Russell Huxtable, with us to talk about his expertise. In housing just a few housekeeping before we get started. My name's Liz O'neil, and I have the pleasure of leading the a team with the Board members, many of which are on. Raise your hand if you are on zoom now.

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00:00:28.690 --> 00:00:47.259

Liz ONeill: and I thank them for all their hard work. We're a volunteer led organization, and we the 3. As for the a team, we advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities on issues that are important to us and our loved ones, and those that work with our loved ones.

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00:00:47.390 --> 00:01:15.119

Liz ONeill: And we advise, we try to advise our our State leaders, both Senators, representatives and leaders at Dds about the the issues that we care about, the things that we need, and we try to raise awareness in our community about people who we love have intellectual and developmental disabilities all to just make their life more inclusive, more fun, more interesting.

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00:01:15.441 --> 00:01:28.297

Liz ONeill: better and easier, that those are sort of our goals. And this is our monthly meeting, and it centers on housing few housekeeping when you're not speaking. If you would please put yourself on mute so that we

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00:01:28.990 --> 00:01:54.779

Liz ONeill: minimize any background information, we're gonna have the presentation, and followed by plenty of time for discussion, and QA. And all of that. And again, this this meeting is being recorded. So I'm gonna hand it over to Verna, who knows our guest well and is gonna have the pleasure of introducing him. So thanks for everybody for participating tonight.

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00:01:56.160 --> 00:01:59.635

vhensley with Easterseals: Hey, everybody? My name is Bernah Hensley.

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00:02:00.320 --> 00:02:25.174

vhensley with Easterseals: and that's my daughter. So after I get done introducing Senator Huxtable, I'm going to go on mute, so you all be able to hear him. But for those of you who don't know me I work at Easter seals. I'm kind of an unofficial advisor, I guess, to the a team. Obviously, also have a lot of interest in these in these issues as well.

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00:02:25.938 --> 00:02:35.353

vhensley with Easterseals: Senator Huxtable is very recently elected. He's in his first. He's in the sixth district. Yes, which is the

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00:02:36.742 --> 00:02:46.690

vhensley with Easterseals: center of the Senate, and that is the area down around the beach. Milton, Lewis, Robert, that area and he is, has

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00:02:46.860 --> 00:03:11.690

vhensley with Easterseals: been known, but especially now that he's been elected. He really is an expert on affordable housing and what it takes to create those kinds of of the structure and to to make that possible. So I haven't actually asked you this Senator Huxle, but I saw in your bio you volunteered with the Appalachia Service project it, which is like a Home Repair Service Ministry.

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00:03:12.363 --> 00:03:41.610

vhensley with Easterseals: And I'm I'm guessing that's kind of where you got your your love and your passion for housing issues. And that informed his next couple of decades of of volunteer work and his professional work. He's been worked for places like the Interfaith Housing Alliance, most recently, as vice President of the Milford Housing Development Corporation participated in the Governor's Council on Housing.

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00:03:41.620 --> 00:03:52.352

vhensley with Easterseals: and the thing I love about Delaware is you have a legislator who comes into office, and he has an expertise and a passion for an issue that's really important.

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00:03:53.064 --> 00:04:18.935

vhensley with Easterseals: To our population, right? And he may not be as familiar with our population. But he's more than happy to, to, to

meet and to learn about. You know what are the issues that are pressing? Those of us who have adult children with intellectual and develop developmental disabilities. What kind of housing issues are pressing to us? And I I think I know we wanna have Senator. We wanna have you share

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00:04:19.380 --> 00:04:26.636

vhensley with Easterseals: your most recent efforts, because I know you introduced some legislation recently on a broader spectrum. But then,

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00:04:27.621 --> 00:04:43.408

vhensley with Easterseals: I I you know what's what we'd also like to do is just bring to you the perspective of you know, what are the housing issues that we, as family members are concerned about and and deal with, and make you aware of perhaps something some aspects of that that you might not have

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00:04:43.700 --> 00:04:49.830

vhensley with Easterseals: have been as familiar with. So I will turn it over to you, Senator, and I will mute.

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00:04:54.400 --> 00:05:18.336

Russell Huxtable: Alright! There we go! It's it's great to be here. Thank you for the invitation to speak with you all. Bernie, you are right. I work for Appalachia service projects in college. I I initially went to school as a business major my goal was to own several toy stores and make millions and millions of dollars. Because that's what I thought we were supposed to do.

19

00:05:18.790 --> 00:05:24.290

Russell Huxtable: then worked the entire summer during Appalachia saw abject poverty

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00:05:24.330 --> 00:05:29.480

Russell Huxtable: and it did that experience in Appalachia during college really did

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00:05:30.028 --> 00:05:37.801

Russell Huxtable: frame my future professional career and and affordable housing and community development work.

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00:05:38.560 --> 00:05:39.780

Russell Huxtable: and

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00:05:40.440 --> 00:05:44.529

Russell Huxtable: you know, I I remember telling folks when I was in Appalachia.

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00:05:44.830 --> 00:06:02.979

Russell Huxtable: Yeah, I love that you came here, you know, and you volunteered. But you need to go into your own communities and and and do this good work. Volunteer for soup kitchens habitats, all all those sorts of organizations, because my goal was to end up back in Kentucky myself.

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00:06:03.498 --> 00:06:14.811

Russell Huxtable: But little did I realize I'd listen to my 21 year old self and end up back in Delaware, doing affordable housing and community development work. And

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00:06:15.540 --> 00:06:24.540

Russell Huxtable: I, I think we've we've impacted a lot of lives through the work that we've done. I I managed home ownership programs home repair programs

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00:06:25.115 --> 00:06:41.244

Russell Huxtable: even the development of affordable rental communities throughout the State Eastern shore, Maryland, into West Virginia. So our our our scope was pretty broad. Really pleased to have some of the opportunities

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00:06:41.750 --> 00:06:56.949

Russell Huxtable: to work. I I spent a little bit of time with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh that has amazing resources. They were creating, I think, in the last year. 2 years before I left they were creating a program called Home for Good.

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00:06:57.000 --> 00:07:02.930

Russell Huxtable: and that actually helped address some of the homeless issues that we face in in our region.

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00:07:03.440 --> 00:07:18.929

Russell Huxtable: and they were trying to design the program. So I I I

pitched in and helped them formulate how they would disperse some of the funds that they were that they were putting into our State and and some of the other surrounding States, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

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00:07:18.930 --> 00:07:35.790

Russell Huxtable: So I I and I. I tell this story as well of a great day that I had. And this is a great day that we all have and if you just think about your own day as I walk you through this one day I had, I I went to the local lows because they were

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00:07:35.800 --> 00:07:53.370

Russell Huxtable: selling mulch. Really inexpensive. I think it was their sale, for, like 4 bags for \$10 or whatever it was. So I I went there and loaded up in the mulch, and the person who was at the register checking me out built in the self-help housing program that I managed

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00:07:54.090 --> 00:07:59.139

Russell Huxtable: because I lifted so much mulch and twisted my back. I I had to go to the Chiropractor.

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00:07:59.490 --> 00:08:07.794

Russell Huxtable: and while I was in the stem room where they give you the ice and the heat and the little electric shock stuff.

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00:08:08.170 --> 00:08:09.800

Russell Huxtable: The person in that room

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00:08:09.850 --> 00:08:12.569

Russell Huxtable: built in our self-help housing program.

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00:08:12.940 --> 00:08:18.445

Russell Huxtable: I then had to go visit my construction manager, who was at the at Baby Hospital.

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00:08:18.880 --> 00:08:21.579

Russell Huxtable: and I go check into the security guard.

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00:08:21.610 --> 00:08:25.670

Russell Huxtable: and that person built in our self help housing program.

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00:08:25.690 --> 00:08:36.400

Russell Huxtable: I go upstairs to visit our construction manager, and it's a dual rooms at Bb. And the one side was being clean. Cause that person had just been released

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00:08:37.052 --> 00:08:48.340

Russell Huxtable: that orderly built in our self help housing program. I have 2 kids. They're 14 and 15 now. They're younger than had to go get milk at the grocery store

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00:08:49.076 --> 00:08:56.570

Russell Huxtable: it was on the way home first cereal. Obviously in the morning, and the assistant store manager

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00:08:56.590 --> 00:09:01.309

Russell Huxtable: built in our self help housing program. So all throughout the day.

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00:09:01.400 --> 00:09:04.840

Russell Huxtable: as we work and and and

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00:09:05.270 --> 00:09:06.869

Russell Huxtable: go about our day

46

00:09:06.890 --> 00:09:31.189

Russell Huxtable: the people that we meet every day, and I almost feel like a little bit of Sesame Street here the people that we meet every day. Who who are contributing to our community. I should also have the ability to live in our our community. If you ever seen the movie. It's a wonderful life. And George Bailey, you know, these are the people who are living and and paying they. And they should have a place to live.

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00:09:31.210 --> 00:09:33.550

Russell Huxtable: And I really think it's important

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00:09:34.752 --> 00:09:38.520

Russell Huxtable: to provide a whole spectrum of housing solutions.

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00:09:38.930 --> 00:09:44.850

Russell Huxtable: Because we don't wanna just build neighborhoods. And just subdivisions. We wanna build community.

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00:09:45.120 --> 00:09:47.279

Russell Huxtable: And you can't have

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00:09:47.400 --> 00:09:49.170

Russell Huxtable: a community without

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00:09:49.680 --> 00:09:53.399

Russell Huxtable: everyone being able to live and work in that community

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00:09:53.520 --> 00:10:05.310

Russell Huxtable: because we talk about healthcare, and some of the challenges that we have in in our area where the Median home prices over \$500,000 in. In in my district

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00:10:05.770 --> 00:10:09.420

Russell Huxtable: the the the doctor may be able to afford that.

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00:10:09.530 --> 00:10:13.970

Russell Huxtable: but the 5 or 6 other people that work for that doctor won't be able to afford it.

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00:10:14.140 --> 00:10:17.600

Russell Huxtable: so we really can't have healthcare if we don't have housing

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00:10:18.090 --> 00:10:23.489

Russell Huxtable: and housing is also fundamentally important for the people who are visiting the hospital who may be sick.

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00:10:24.670 --> 00:10:31.500

Russell Huxtable: because then the hospital may be able to fix them up, but then they send them back to that same house that might be making them sick.

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00:10:31.920 --> 00:10:40.609

Russell Huxtable: And so housing is a complex issue and I'm certainly probably speaking to the choir, as you all probably realize.

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00:10:42.300 --> 00:10:43.139

Russell Huxtable: But

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00:10:43.170 --> 00:10:51.725

Russell Huxtable: if we don't make progress if we fail to to address the issue. And I think we haven't addressed the issue for

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00:10:52.530 --> 00:10:57.789

Russell Huxtable: significant portion of time. We're we're gonna end up.

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00:10:59.369 --> 00:11:07.130

Russell Huxtable: I think we're already in a crisis. It's going to get worse before it gets better. But if we don't address.

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00:11:07.490 --> 00:11:12.017

Russell Huxtable: I think sometimes the core issue, which is housing.

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00:11:13.150 --> 00:11:19.659

Russell Huxtable: we're gonna spend a lot of money in other areas that that are just addressing symptoms.

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00:11:20.272 --> 00:11:24.720

Russell Huxtable: And I I remember talking to one of the local Chambers of Commerce.

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00:11:24.740 --> 00:11:27.429

Russell Huxtable: and hadn't hadn't met her before.

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00:11:27.460 --> 00:11:34.900

Russell Huxtable: And so this is our introductory meeting, and she tells me, do you know what the number one issue is here.

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00:11:35.230 --> 00:11:42.750

Russell Huxtable: And I'm I'm thinking, okay, she's a Chamber of Commerce. It's it's probably business regulation or something of that nature. She goes.

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00:11:43.051 --> 00:11:49.570

Russell Huxtable: So I I just no, no, I'm not sure. I wanted to hear from what what she thought the number one issue was because

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00:11:49.690 --> 00:11:50.610

Russell Huxtable: housing.

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00:11:51.530 --> 00:11:57.519

Russell Huxtable: and so just recently. In our first, I just got elected in 2022,

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00:11:58.220 --> 00:12:09.711

Russell Huxtable: and in the first session, because it's a 2 year session. The first session I passed the bill that I had been looking to pass for about 10 or 12 years, and it was

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00:12:10.310 --> 00:12:15.639

Russell Huxtable: a modest bill, but and it was to help reduce the realty transfer tax

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00:12:16.020 --> 00:12:26.970

Russell Huxtable: for people who are developing affordable housing help bring the overall cost of that home or or that rental unit which would be a home down

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00:12:27.437 --> 00:12:32.799

Russell Huxtable: because ultimately it's the. It's these rising costs that that make things really unaffordable. Right?

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00:12:33.970 --> 00:12:42.929

Russell Huxtable: And I I've been pushing for that bill for 10 or 12 years, and and finally, like I felt relief by by getting that bill

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00:12:43.000 --> 00:12:44.139

Russell Huxtable: built on

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00:12:44.655 --> 00:12:56.380

Russell Huxtable: but we didn't stop there? We asked the State. We passed the concurrent resolution which means the House passes it, and

the Senate passes. A resolution does not need to be signed by the Governor.

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00:12:56.510 --> 00:13:14.529

Russell Huxtable: but I asked this, the State, the executive branch, to look into the State surplus properties and see what they have available that we could utilize for affordable housing. Because I think the State needs to get a little bit more serious about its investments in affordable housing. And if we have surplus properties.

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00:13:14.730 --> 00:13:17.660

Russell Huxtable: Let's get them into active

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00:13:17.670 --> 00:13:20.290

Russell Huxtable: use for our affordable housing crisis.

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00:13:21.770 --> 00:13:38.420

Russell Huxtable: But we didn't stop there this past session. Probably about 3 or 4 weeks ago I introduced a 7 bill bipartisan package to address affordable housing, and it touches they they they all all the bills work independent of each other.

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00:13:38.530 --> 00:13:42.919

Russell Huxtable: but they also kind of weave together and complement each other.

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00:13:43.050 --> 00:13:53.119

Russell Huxtable: because, again, housing and housing affordability is a dynamic issue. So I just run through a couple of of these bills and and tell you kind of maybe, how they'll work.

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00:13:53.950 --> 00:13:58.360

Russell Huxtable: One of the bills is the workforce housing program.

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00:13:59.090 --> 00:14:20.459

Russell Huxtable: This is a program that is modeled after the downtown development district program which provides incentives to developers to build in certain key designated areas like downtown Wilmington Sea for Milford. Dover. You know, some of the areas that seen a lack of investment.

88

00:14:21.110 --> 00:14:25.894

Russell Huxtable: And that program's been around for 12 or 14 years.
And

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00:14:26.610 --> 00:14:29.230

Russell Huxtable: the General Assembly seems to like it.

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00:14:29.350 --> 00:14:34.290

Russell Huxtable: and so they invest in it. So I'm going to create as many tools as possible

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00:14:34.390 --> 00:14:35.852

Russell Huxtable: for folks to

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00:14:37.442 --> 00:14:52.660

Russell Huxtable: to to address the the the affordable housing issue. So the workforce housing program also provides incentives to developers to develop housing that's affordable for families earning less than 100% of area Median income.

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00:14:53.020 --> 00:14:57.700

Russell Huxtable: And some people say, like, you know, maybe I went to high on that meeting income.

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00:14:58.010 --> 00:15:25.609

Russell Huxtable: But one of the reasons why, you know, we went up to 100 is because of where the costs are really in in housing period. But also providing that middle housing is a really key important step. We have a program in the State of Delaware. It's the low income Housing Tax Credit program, the program funded by the Federal Government that provides equity to developers to develop affordable housing at

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00:15:26.004 --> 00:15:33.665

Russell Huxtable: families making less than 60% of area meeting income. I'm sorry I don't have those numbers on me right now.

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00:15:34.630 --> 00:15:38.010

Russell Huxtable: But once somebody starts earning additional income.

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00:15:38.040 --> 00:15:41.579

Russell Huxtable: there's no next step for them to go to.

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00:15:41.590 --> 00:15:47.440

Russell Huxtable: so they stay in the units that are meant to be for more affordable.

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00:15:48.165 --> 00:15:48.869

Russell Huxtable: Folks!

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00:15:49.010 --> 00:15:54.199

Russell Huxtable: So this program may capture some of that market between 80 and 100.

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00:15:54.430 --> 00:15:56.470

Russell Huxtable: So those families could move in

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00:15:56.490 --> 00:16:02.530

Russell Huxtable: and and creating. Yeah, alleviating the stress on the more affordable units.

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00:16:03.310 --> 00:16:10.690

Russell Huxtable: We also are opening up the county tax counties receive

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00:16:10.780 --> 00:16:14.330

Russell Huxtable: income from the accommodations, tax hotels.

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00:16:14.740 --> 00:16:19.439

Russell Huxtable: and the State government has said, you can spend your money on

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00:16:19.840 --> 00:16:21.820

Russell Huxtable: XY and Z.

107

00:16:22.050 --> 00:16:24.399

Russell Huxtable: And so we added.

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00:16:24.440 --> 00:16:25.980

Russell Huxtable: and affordable housing

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00:16:26.100 --> 00:16:32.640

Russell Huxtable: to that equation because we want to incentivize additional public dollars to help address the issue.

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00:16:32.980 --> 00:16:33.735

Russell Huxtable: And

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00:16:34.770 --> 00:16:48.059

Russell Huxtable: that then also works into the next bill that we introduced, which was another reduction in the realty transfer tax locally known as the State Improvement Tax.

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00:16:48.450 --> 00:16:57.179

Russell Huxtable: and that is a tax. If if I were to buy a 10 million dollar apartment complex. And I want to renovate it. Put 10 more 1 million dollars into it.

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00:16:57.510 --> 00:17:01.630

Russell Huxtable: The State collects 2% on the improvements that I'm going to make.

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00:17:01.860 --> 00:17:04.980

Russell Huxtable: so that could be an extra \$200,000 or more

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00:17:06.086 --> 00:17:10.700

Russell Huxtable: that the State is getting. But it's gonna hamper my ability to make things more affordable.

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00:17:10.720 --> 00:17:15.289

Russell Huxtable: So if you are making it more affordable because you have public investment

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00:17:15.800 --> 00:17:18.609

Russell Huxtable: from perhaps the accommodations tax

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00:17:19.239 --> 00:17:24.180

Russell Huxtable: the State will reward that developer, and that, and that public

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00:17:25.106 --> 00:17:30.929

Russell Huxtable: and and that jurisdiction by by reducing the amount of taxes that it collects.

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00:17:31.760 --> 00:17:37.330

Russell Huxtable: We also introduced a home repair and modification program

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00:17:38.188 --> 00:17:48.820

Russell Huxtable: the State of Delaware and the Delaware State Housing Authority has been operating a home repair program it's currently called the Statewide Emergency Repair program

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00:17:48.930 --> 00:18:17.560

Russell Huxtable: for at least the last 30 plus years. I know much about it because I actually operated and manage that program myself. When I worked at Milford Housing Development Corporation. And so what we've done. We've created the Home Repair Program and modification fund that will attract additional Federal dollars, or even private charitable dollars, or even individuals who will want to contribute to that fund which will help

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00:18:18.050 --> 00:18:22.360

Russell Huxtable: families earning less than 80% of area meaning income

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00:18:22.430 --> 00:18:28.890

Russell Huxtable: as well as an emphasis on those making less than 50% of Median income and repairs.

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00:18:29.600 --> 00:18:33.141

Russell Huxtable: currently would be roof repairs

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00:18:34.777 --> 00:18:47.910

Russell Huxtable: accessibility ramps some minor modifications, but as that fund grows my hope is that they'll also be able to expand the types of repairs that they are doing.

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00:18:47.980 --> 00:18:51.670

Russell Huxtable: It also will help coordinate between State agencies.

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00:18:51.800 --> 00:18:59.619

Russell Huxtable: because, there are a number of State agencies that deal in housing, not just the housing authority.

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00:18:59.700 --> 00:19:18.159

Russell Huxtable: You have the Department of Health and Social Services. They have a heater repair and replacement program. You have Denrek, that operates the weatherization program. You have the Delaware Sustainable energy utility company, which is a private nonprofit, offers the

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00:19:18.230 --> 00:19:34.850

Russell Huxtable: pre weatherization assistance program. And so hopefully, my goal in the future is to get all these state agencies working together, investing in the one fund. So a family who needs the assistance in home repairs or modifications

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00:19:34.940 --> 00:19:49.799

Russell Huxtable: can go to one source and get everything done at one time to make things easier for the the clients. who basically is the customer right? And this is something that I had been doing and working on

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00:19:50.231 --> 00:19:57.630

Russell Huxtable: myself. When I was working at Milford Housing Development Corporation, trying to acquire these different grants, because

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00:19:58.230 --> 00:20:01.729

Russell Huxtable: if I had somebody come in. And we we experienced this.

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00:20:02.095 --> 00:20:06.239

Russell Huxtable: This is sometimes the coordination between different agencies that are running things.

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00:20:06.960 --> 00:20:14.349

Russell Huxtable: We had a client that got deferred from the weatherization program, which was managed by a different entity.

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00:20:14.570 --> 00:20:18.950

Russell Huxtable: We were able to come in and they needed some roof

repairs.

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00:20:19.020 --> 00:20:22.969

Russell Huxtable: So we fixed the roof stopped the leak from happening.

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00:20:24.030 --> 00:20:27.340

Russell Huxtable: Then the family got weatherization money.

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00:20:27.960 --> 00:20:32.830

Russell Huxtable: and they had to install the insulation for that roof

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00:20:32.970 --> 00:20:34.749

Russell Huxtable: through the roof itself.

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00:20:35.920 --> 00:20:37.290

Russell Huxtable: And so

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00:20:38.070 --> 00:20:41.959

Russell Huxtable: 2 months later, after they got the weatherization money.

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00:20:41.970 --> 00:20:47.810

Russell Huxtable: they call us up and say, Hey, my roof is leaking. You're like we fixed it.

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00:20:47.900 --> 00:21:06.820

Russell Huxtable: and it it just the coordination between weatherization and the emergency repair. Fixing the roof, if it had been under one roof, could have been better coordinated, and the customer, the client, the constituent would have just been able to get better services all at one time. So these are things that

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00:21:06.820 --> 00:21:18.339

Russell Huxtable: I certainly wanna continue to work on a couple of the other bills that we another bill that we passed, or sorry didn't pass that we introduced was accessory dwelling units

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00:21:19.196 --> 00:21:32.009

Russell Huxtable: I held a listening tour. This past fall in Lewis,

Georgetown, Dover, Newark, and Wilmington, because I wanted to hear what some of the issues were from from different areas of the State

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00:21:32.140 --> 00:21:34.459

Russell Huxtable: and accessory dwelling units

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00:21:35.095 --> 00:21:44.869

Russell Huxtable: while seemingly a low hanging fruit is certainly a difficult bill to kinda introduce, because it it might step on a a few toes.

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00:21:44.960 --> 00:21:48.235

Russell Huxtable: but we need additional options.

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00:21:48.900 --> 00:22:17.720

Russell Huxtable: in addressing affordable housing and accessory dwelling units could be that option could be that option for someone to age in place. It could be an option. I I just told everyone I I've got a freshman and an eighth grader. If they go off to college and they wanna come back as a young professional, they may not be able to. They will not be able to afford to live in this area, and they might not want to live under Mom and Dad's roof.

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00:22:17.810 --> 00:22:31.690

Russell Huxtable: So if we had an accessory dwelling unit that could let have young professionals be there. Home health aid workers could live in the backyard while while helping the the family in the front yard.

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00:22:32.017 --> 00:22:40.640

Russell Huxtable: So I think there's I think this bill has a lot of merit, still has a lot of work to do, but I think this could really help

153

00:22:41.070 --> 00:23:03.949

Russell Huxtable: in the in the whole workforce issue. Because generally in accessory dwelling units going to be much smaller. And sometimes just size of a home drives up that cost. And I saw I'm gonna go off a little bit. I saw this great show hometown. America. Has anybody seen hometown, America. Through Hgtv.

154

00:23:04.050 --> 00:23:07.469

Russell Huxtable: One of their episodes they rehabbed

155

00:23:07.500 --> 00:23:11.620

Russell Huxtable: an accessory dwelling unit, and it was like a 300 square foot

156

00:23:11.760 --> 00:23:21.329

Russell Huxtable: little home, and it was had a full bathroom, had had a modified kitchen that had a couple of burners, and like a dorm size fridge

157

00:23:21.586 --> 00:23:30.466

Russell Huxtable: but I remember I I lived on my own, and I had a full size fridge. That was when I was in, you know, just getting out of college. That thing was not full at all.

158

00:23:31.140 --> 00:23:36.110

Russell Huxtable: so there, these are good options, and the capital cost

159

00:23:36.350 --> 00:23:38.560

Russell Huxtable: to build an accessory dwelling unit

160

00:23:38.990 --> 00:23:42.409

Russell Huxtable: is not going to be as much as it would be to build

161

00:23:42.420 --> 00:23:43.880

Russell Huxtable: the primary home.

162

00:23:44.650 --> 00:23:52.039

Russell Huxtable: And then, if you go, if we also go, then go back to the very first bill that I introduced the workforce housing program.

163

00:23:52.090 --> 00:24:03.348

Russell Huxtable: Somebody who builds the accessory dwelling unit and ensures that it's going to be used for someone who's making less than a hundred percent of area needing income will also then get

164

00:24:03.880 --> 00:24:12.100

Russell Huxtable: a rebate on the capital cost, making it that much

more affordable, and maybe that carrot to say, you know what?

165

00:24:12.210 --> 00:24:13.500

Russell Huxtable: I will put

166

00:24:13.660 --> 00:24:23.049

Russell Huxtable: a tiny home in my backyard for somebody that somebody could be my parents or could be my my kids, or it could be a nurse that works at Bb hospital.

167

00:24:23.533 --> 00:24:34.129

Russell Huxtable: So all these bills, they they can actually work on their own. But they can also really help when they work in concert with each other. And that's the the

168

00:24:34.450 --> 00:24:38.640

Russell Huxtable: what I really want to kind of bring to the table is that you know. There, there's

169

00:24:38.650 --> 00:24:43.230

Russell Huxtable: there's no one magic bill that that solves the affordable housing crisis.

170

00:24:43.250 --> 00:24:49.569

Russell Huxtable: But we need to make sure that we're diligent, and we stay on board, and we and and we we keep addressing

171

00:24:49.840 --> 00:24:56.479

Russell Huxtable: the issue. Because if we don't like, we haven't in the last 30 years, we get to the crisis that we're in right now.

172

00:24:56.940 --> 00:24:58.199

Russell Huxtable: and so

173

00:24:59.240 --> 00:25:18.210

Russell Huxtable: I guess I will leave it at that. And I really appreciate you all being on this line on this call because, you know, these bills just don't affect my district. They affect every single one of us, cause we are all in this together. Thank you.

174

00:25:20.730 --> 00:25:24.509

Liz ONeill: Looks like Verna has her hand raised. Thank you, Senator Huxtable.

175

00:25:24.510 --> 00:25:25.190

Russell Huxtable: Yes.

176

00:25:25.190 --> 00:25:28.205

vhensley with Easterseals: I need. I just had a couple of questions. If if

177

00:25:28.520 --> 00:25:32.399

vhensley with Easterseals: Liz, if you're okay, if we ask just ask questions now.

178

00:25:32.400 --> 00:25:44.129

Liz ONeill: Sure. We wanted to bring Stacy in also to talk about her. You know her ideas for affordable housing. Maybe I think if the timing's right for you, Stacy, you can go, and then we'll go.

179

00:25:44.130 --> 00:25:45.589

vhensley with Easterseals: Okay, yeah. That'd be great.

180

00:25:45.590 --> 00:26:10.300

Stacey O'Rourke: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Huxtable, for joining us tonight, and for all your advocacy and hard work around affordable housing. I wanted to let you know about my family and what my needs are, and then needs of many families with individuals, with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I have 3 teenagers. They are severely autistic and intellectually disabled.

181

00:26:10.310 --> 00:26:15.539

Stacey O'Rourke: To make a long story short, in the interest of time, they are like infants and toddlers.

182

00:26:15.580 --> 00:26:17.060

Stacey O'Rourke: so they need

183

00:26:17.090 --> 00:26:35.559

Stacey O'Rourke: not only did they need affordable housing because they won't have any income. Besides, SSI, because they're not high

functioning enough to work, they won't need housing. That protects them. For example, my house is child proof like you would for a baby. Everything is locked up, knives, medicine, food.

184

00:26:35.760 --> 00:26:36.799

Stacey O'Rourke: I have a

185

00:26:37.200 --> 00:26:39.841

Stacey O'Rourke: lock on my door the

186

00:26:40.470 --> 00:27:02.520

Stacey O'Rourke: that you use the key from the inside to lock a dead bolt just for some examples. So their home needs to be modified for their particular needs. Also they will need 24, 7 care. They need help with all of their daily living skills, toileting their incontinent feeding, bathing.

187

00:27:03.020 --> 00:27:05.130

Stacey O'Rourke: any function that you would

188

00:27:05.300 --> 00:27:30.410

Stacey O'Rourke: have to take care of a baby, for that's what they need. So we have a couple of problems. First of all, there's not enough housing, and you know, you know, about the affordable housing. But we also need direct support professionals that can care for these individuals, and there is a shortage and part of the and I know you know everything I'm talking about. There's a shortage of direct support professionals, because the

189

00:27:30.540 --> 00:27:33.630

Stacey O'Rourke: hey is not what it needs to be

190

00:27:34.160 --> 00:27:45.259

Stacey O'Rourke: so. What we would like to ask you is, how can we help you help us? And what are your thoughts on some of the needs that I I mentioned that I have.

191

00:27:46.840 --> 00:27:56.951

Russell Huxtable: Yeah, it's it's certainly a a complicated issue. I I'm just gonna turn. It got darker here the clouds came in. And so I just gonna turn on the light which is over here.

192

00:28:02.150 --> 00:28:05.072

Russell Huxtable: Alright. Thank you. Sorry about that.

193

00:28:06.780 --> 00:28:18.816

Russell Huxtable: yeah, this. This is a complicated issue. And and and with the With Aid Aid workers that that need to come in. There's no housing for them, you know. They'll they'll work elsewhere.

194

00:28:19.320 --> 00:28:22.430

Russell Huxtable: But I would, I would imagine, even, you know.

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00:28:23.400 --> 00:28:24.730

Russell Huxtable: even if we

196

00:28:24.760 --> 00:28:31.760

Russell Huxtable: we, we should have obviously look for equity and pay, and and things of that nature, and look to to increase those those wages.

197

00:28:31.870 --> 00:28:41.939

Russell Huxtable: but I I would even imagine, even if we increase the rate wages to probably where they should be. You still might have an affordable housing issue. And so.

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00:28:42.120 --> 00:28:48.140

Russell Huxtable: you know, just just offering. You know, those wages still doesn't address the the

199

00:28:48.260 --> 00:28:51.110

Russell Huxtable: the underlying symptom of of what's happening.

200

00:28:53.260 --> 00:29:04.279

Russell Huxtable: And and you know, hopefully, the Repair modification fund as we develop it. And we look for more sources hopefully, that those sort of

201

00:29:05.182 --> 00:29:10.259

Russell Huxtable: issues that you're you're bringing to the table can be addressed through such programs.

202

00:29:12.050 --> 00:29:18.209

Russell Huxtable: no. So I I do appreciate you bringing it to to my attention and and and seeing how we can

203

00:29:18.585 --> 00:29:23.174

Russell Huxtable: address it, I think I was at the was it the Life Conference?

204

00:29:23.910 --> 00:29:36.479

Russell Huxtable: And and this was a this was a big issue, not just pay, but then but but housing for for folks, and some folks who are aging. And and then

205

00:29:37.270 --> 00:29:43.200

Russell Huxtable: where are our kids going to? You know? How are our kids going to care for if we're not there to care for them?

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00:29:43.646 --> 00:29:47.919

Russell Huxtable: And I know the State does have a State rental assistance program

207

00:29:48.375 --> 00:29:51.424

Russell Huxtable: that can help in some regards.

208

00:29:51.880 --> 00:29:57.907

Russell Huxtable: and that can always be looked to expand that that program.

209

00:29:58.820 --> 00:30:00.961

Russell Huxtable: but it's it's it's tough.

210

00:30:01.860 --> 00:30:04.520

Russell Huxtable: So thank you. Thank you for sharing your story.

211

00:30:04.810 --> 00:30:05.610

Stacey O'Rourke: You're welcome.

212

00:30:09.000 --> 00:30:15.440

Liz O'Neill: I think there's one other person on the call at least one

that was prepared to share their story as well. If you wanna

213

00:30:15.730 --> 00:30:17.230

Liz O'Neill: jumped, I think.

214

00:30:17.230 --> 00:30:19.299

pat swanson: You were gonna share about your son.

215

00:30:20.770 --> 00:30:21.849

Liz O'Neill: Who's that? Pat.

216

00:30:22.000 --> 00:30:24.290

pat swanson: Ruth Lavelle, who has her hand up.

217

00:30:24.290 --> 00:30:27.580

Ruth Lavelle: Yeah. Pat asked me to to share some

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00:30:28.050 --> 00:30:34.979

Ruth Lavelle: some thoughts. So, Senator Hospital, thank you for for joining our group and speaking. So I I I understand.

219

00:30:35.010 --> 00:30:41.499

Ruth Lavelle: Lisa listening to you. Speak, I hear. Affordable housing crisis. Yes, but what we, as our community have

220

00:30:41.760 --> 00:30:45.390

Ruth Lavelle: is is a housing option crisis, because

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00:30:45.720 --> 00:30:50.920

Ruth Lavelle: unless my son lives with me for the rest of his life, or lives in some sort of group home that isn't available.

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00:30:50.980 --> 00:30:53.209

Ruth Lavelle: there's no option. So

223

00:30:53.340 --> 00:31:11.940

Ruth Lavelle: that's what we're trying to create, like what what happens? Because there is one thing I know for sure, I am not gonna live forever. So I have to plan for that, and it's difficult to plan

when there's no options. I always kind of thought. Alright. So first of all, just some background. My son's 23 he works 9 HA week, but that requires a ton of supports.

224

00:31:12.090 --> 00:31:12.950

Ruth Lavelle: and

225

00:31:13.490 --> 00:31:22.800

Ruth Lavelle: I'm I'm thankful for that. But somebody has to manage that when I'm not around to do that. So it's there. There's another hat, and and we talk about the hats that we have to wear. I mean, parents wear a lot of hats.

226

00:31:23.190 --> 00:31:30.689

Ruth Lavelle: Typically, those fall off as your child grows into adulthood. Unfortunately for for our community, those hats start to pile on as you enter adulthood

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00:31:30.710 --> 00:31:51.700

Ruth Lavelle: because the families have to take on more and the support care givers have to take on more because that individual's needs are higher. And they just those needs. Don't go away. They just become more complex and more difficult to staff, because there's no options. So when I think about Matthew, he, he! He's! And to echo what Stacy just said, it's not so much structure

228

00:31:51.700 --> 00:32:16.339

Ruth Lavelle: that's important. But what's vital to him is the quality of the care within that structure, and it it the way that is parsed out. Now it's very haphazard. I think the the payment for these individuals that are providing life, saving life in impactful care isn't nearly what it should be on a compensation level. When I think about

229

00:32:16.340 --> 00:32:31.030

Ruth Lavelle: what my son's needs are and what it he requires to live his best life, to live, to, to live a happy and safe life. It's not what I'm seeing being delivered today. And and I that is just a fundamental responsibility of government to fix that.

230

00:32:31.030 --> 00:32:55.270

Ruth Lavelle: Those who are most risk. Right? I mean, I will give you the structure. I will figure out how to make the structure work, but

that care the replacing what I do every day for for 24 7 or I have somebody else doing when I'm working. It's that's to me the most important piece to making him happy and safe and healthy, and living the life that he deserves to live. So when I think about what his housing options would look like.

231

00:32:55.270 --> 00:33:08.819

Ruth Lavelle: He's he's very active in his community. We've we've we've done that for for years because he's a social guy. So he goes to church. He he serves mass. He does all these things. He works. So I mean, he goes to the Y. So people. He knows more people than I do, and

232

00:33:09.090 --> 00:33:27.960

Ruth Lavelle: I don't even know who these people are. They just come up and say Hi! To him, and he smiles, and it's great. So why can't I have a house? Why can't he have a house or somebody? I don't know the owner of structure that could be worked out, but it's in his community right? And this this the State provides. Those supports, those 24 7 supports. They replicate me when I'm gone

233

00:33:27.960 --> 00:33:56.390

Ruth Lavelle: in that house, for when he's in there 24 7, personal care needs all of that support. Help with food. He there! There is very little, despite despite working on it for 23 years independence around Adl's and and just basic life skills. But I'll tell you what, he's gonna smile at a light up your heart. So that is his gift to everybody, and and and people enjoy being around him for that reason. But that's not an option like I can't buy a house today and then put him in there with some friends, or whatever.

234

00:33:56.940 --> 00:34:24.590

Ruth Lavelle: because it's just not an option. The State doesn't support that and another thought like my A, I'm aging like, maybe I wanna be in an assisted living facility cause I'm gonna need that kind of setting. Why can't he have that as an option. So we're in the same community together. It's a typical community of people just different ages, different needs. He's getting the care he needs based on his needs. I'm getting the care I need based on my needs. But we're in the community we're in. We're in our community.

235

00:34:24.620 --> 00:34:26.187

Ruth Lavelle: not an option.

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00:34:27.570 --> 00:34:35.540

Ruth Lavelle: think of a 55 and older community. If I wanted to live in that, I'm tired of taking care of the house. I want to live like that, because there's easier. But social. It's it's in my community.

237

00:34:35.800 --> 00:34:52.669

Ruth Lavelle: He can't he? He! He can't have a community like that where he could live with his friends, who have similar interests and likes and desires, because it is not an option in the State, and a lot of these options come down to the fact that the way the State of Delaware interpreters interpret interprets Medicaid is, we can't do that way.

238

00:34:52.670 --> 00:35:15.359

Ruth Lavelle: But yet we see in other States these these wonderful housing models that are functioning and working, and Medicaid supports those either on an ongoing basis, with the supports that are delivered to those individuals based on their needs, or in some cases even from the construction phase where HUD money is used in the construction of that project. But yet we're told by Dmma that

239

00:35:15.810 --> 00:35:25.190

Ruth Lavelle: we can't do that violates Olmstead all these other restrictions, but that is purely from what I've read of the way the State of Delaware is interpreting, interpreting Olmstead

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00:35:25.370 --> 00:35:40.850

Ruth Lavelle: very strictly far different than what other States do. And that's why these other States have these models that I look at. And I'm like, why not us. Why not us? Because that's what my son would. He would thrive in a setting like that. But it is not an option here, so I understand, like, you know, the

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00:35:40.900 --> 00:35:48.200

Ruth Lavelle: the structure and the in the affordable housing crisis. And and I appreciate all the work you're doing about that. But, as Stacy said

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00:35:48.380 --> 00:35:53.300

Ruth Lavelle: for the Id community. It's it's not so much the structure, it's it's

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00:35:53.410 --> 00:36:01.629

Ruth Lavelle: it's the care those individuals need in the community. I

want my son to live in his community because he enjoys his community, he needs to stay in his community.

244

00:36:01.630 --> 00:36:02.229

Russell Huxtable: Needs to be.

245

00:36:02.230 --> 00:36:04.430

Ruth Lavelle: As least restrictive as possible.

246

00:36:04.530 --> 00:36:24.180

Ruth Lavelle: But even that's not an option. So it's it's it's there's so many things to wear. And it's just all these pieces have to come together. So it's it's more than just the affordability of the structure. It's the care in that structure and giving us the options, and that's the crisis for us. There are no options other than knowing we're not gonna live forever and and living with your family forever. Is not

247

00:36:24.480 --> 00:36:25.609

Ruth Lavelle: that firm option.

248

00:36:26.110 --> 00:36:33.079

Russell Huxtable: Yeah. Ruth, can you? Can you send me what they are doing in other States? And as far as providing that optionality.

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00:36:33.370 --> 00:36:38.082

Ruth Lavelle: I'll send you the together for choice link or something. It's got a lot of.

250

00:36:38.360 --> 00:36:57.097

pat swanson: You know what? Actually, we have a housing task force. Senator Huxtable and a team presented some housing options. I'll send you that presentation. And we're actually, some of us are going to be visiting some of these places. They're in New Jersey and in Maryland. And

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00:36:57.570 --> 00:37:03.489

pat swanson: if you're able to join would love to have you join us so I I'll let you know when these are happening.

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00:37:03.700 --> 00:37:04.339

pat swanson: I want to keep.

253

00:37:04.340 --> 00:37:05.609

Russell Huxtable: Knocking down doors.

254

00:37:05.610 --> 00:37:11.750

pat swanson: Yeah. Yeah. And a lot of you know, Maryland is doing love work, play communities.

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00:37:12.020 --> 00:37:26.050

pat swanson: And they are inserting apartments for people with disabilities. In those live work play communities as well as as the State of New Jersey. So a lot of really innovative ways to get housing for people.

256

00:37:26.050 --> 00:37:26.949

Thomas Cook: I would do.

257

00:37:26.950 --> 00:37:30.669

pat swanson: Possibilities, and and have it be inclusive.

258

00:37:31.260 --> 00:37:33.309

Thomas Cook: This brand new subscription.

259

00:37:35.620 --> 00:37:36.860

Liz O'Neill: Thanks for muting

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00:37:36.900 --> 00:37:49.693

Liz O'Neill: wherever that was, and thanks for jumping in. Pat. Senator Huxwell, we have another member who has some prepared remarks, unless you have more to say about to Ruth. And with regard to her comment.

261

00:37:50.990 --> 00:37:55.125

Russell Huxtable: No, no, I just I I I wanna you know, keep on

262

00:37:55.690 --> 00:38:09.899

Russell Huxtable: going through barriers and seeing what we can do. I I know there's in the in the tax credit world they're trying to incentivize, you know, this is more not intellectual disabilities. But they're they're they're trying to do more

263

00:38:10.641 --> 00:38:23.620

Russell Huxtable: accessibility and and things of that nature. So I I think there's there's some connections, but but not the right ones. Yet I I don't. I don't know. I don't mind, you know, making those connections for people.

264

00:38:23.620 --> 00:38:42.899

Ruth Lavelle: And I'll just add onto that. Because and listening to the presentation from one of these housing projects or not projects housing communities in another state. They used tax credits that were specifically targeted towards development, of of housing opportunities for individuals, intellectual disabilities. So along that same line that you're that you're going now, but for a different population.

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00:38:43.170 --> 00:39:02.329

Russell Huxtable: Yeah, in in in Delaware. Unfortunately, being a small state, we get what's considered the small state set aside. So we don't get as like Maryland gets a lot more in the tax credit world than than we do. So in some cases they have more flexibility. It it currently in

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00:39:02.370 --> 00:39:13.970

Russell Huxtable: and the resources that they get. Then Delaware does we? We only do like 3 projects a year in that program where Maryland probably does 20. So that's that's, you know.

267

00:39:14.600 --> 00:39:15.560

Ruth Lavelle: My answer is.

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00:39:15.560 --> 00:39:16.580

Russell Huxtable: Challenges, my.

269

00:39:16.580 --> 00:39:21.051

Ruth Lavelle: Nice with Delaware being a small state is that makes us like a little lab. We can experiment.

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00:39:21.690 --> 00:39:29.250

Russell Huxtable: Yeah. And we have friends currently. I know that Matt Heckles, who is at HUD, who's the region? 3

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00:39:29.430 --> 00:39:38.279

Russell Huxtable: administrator used to work at Delaware State Housing authority, in fact, worked at State of Maryland as well, and we're good friends, and I'm sure like

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00:39:38.630 --> 00:39:47.357

Russell Huxtable: he'd be ha more than happy. He's actually wanted to. He's reached out to me recently to have a conversation, and I can just add on to the agenda. So thank you.

273

00:39:48.839 --> 00:39:51.980

Liz O'Neill: We'll keep you abreast of our all our housing

274

00:39:52.720 --> 00:40:00.190

Liz O'Neill: committee work and also get you examples like Ruth was referencing and and pat from nearby States in terms of

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00:40:00.646 --> 00:40:08.470

Liz O'Neill: flexible housing options. But I want to call on Jackie, I I think, was prepared with some comments to share tonight, Jackie, you're on.

276

00:40:08.750 --> 00:40:22.219

Jacque Lukaszewicz: Hi! Good evening. Senator. Thank you so much for joining and I just want to say, Well done, Ruth, you you took a lot off my list. We have similar passions

277

00:40:22.400 --> 00:40:25.779

Jacque Lukaszewicz: and but I want you to think about

278

00:40:27.080 --> 00:40:27.950

Jacque Lukaszewicz: who

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00:40:28.080 --> 00:40:33.639

Jacque Lukaszewicz: takes care of my son who's on the autism spectrum. He's nonverbal.

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00:40:33.790 --> 00:40:36.919

Jacque Lukaszewicz: He needs 24, 7 care.

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00:40:37.380 --> 00:40:42.259

Jacque Lukaszewicz: He needs all aspects of daily living

282

00:40:43.900 --> 00:40:52.759

Jacque Lukaszewicz: support. So again, he needs assistance with showering and shaving and teeth, brushing and making sure that he does all the appropriate things.

283

00:40:54.240 --> 00:41:04.061

Jacque Lukaszewicz: you know, in the restroom he washes his hands that he's staying healthy, and one of the things that I think we have, and I don't wanna echo some.

284

00:41:04.400 --> 00:41:05.840

Shannon Saunders: There's things that.

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00:41:05.980 --> 00:41:08.450

Jacque Lukaszewicz: Individuals have already stated. But

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00:41:08.750 --> 00:41:12.020

Jacque Lukaszewicz: what my situation currently is is

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00:41:13.100 --> 00:41:17.900

Jacque Lukaszewicz: when I'm not here, who picks up the continuity of care for my son.

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00:41:18.831 --> 00:41:29.670

Jacque Lukaszewicz: He is in a traditional residential setting right now, and I wear many hats. I have a full time job, and I have another full time job, making sure that

289

00:41:29.760 --> 00:41:56.260

Jacque Lukaszewicz: everything that he needs is being taken care of. And and Ruth touched upon that quality of care. I if I don't follow up on the people who support my son. Things don't get done, and he can't pick up the phone and call me and say, Hey, mom, my room is 70 some degrees. It's too hot in here. I can't sleep, so he's resorted to elopement. So I've had to take measures to make sure that

290

00:41:56.670 --> 00:41:59.190

Jacque Lukaszewicz: I'm monitoring the temperature of his room.

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00:41:59.370 --> 00:42:08.800

Jacque Lukaszewicz: I should not have to compromise any standard of care from the way his home looks feels. Temperature.

292

00:42:08.920 --> 00:42:14.260

Jacque Lukaszewicz: standard of care should be the same as if he lived under my roof. Because

293

00:42:15.030 --> 00:42:21.890

Jacque Lukaszewicz: could I take care of him? Yes, but I have a I have a full time job. He should not have to be housebound

294

00:42:22.070 --> 00:42:27.759

Jacque Lukaszewicz: to have that quality of care. He deserves to leave the nest the way his siblings have.

295

00:42:27.910 --> 00:42:42.179

Jacque Lukaszewicz: and he should have a standard of care, and it should not be. Well, we're going to have these types of housing situations only in these particular neighborhoods. I want my son to have the same home that he grew up in

296

00:42:42.990 --> 00:42:52.409

Jacque Lukaszewicz: family worked hard for. That's the other thing I want to point out, too, is that family doesn't necessarily mean that when I'm gone.

297

00:42:52.750 --> 00:43:22.569

Jacque Lukaszewicz: that there is someone there to take and carry the tors just because he has siblings doesn't mean it is their responsibility to pick up that torch that mom does because they're married. They have their own families. So we have to make sure we have things in place. I I'm taking measures as a parent right now going well, what does my next chapter look like? Do I open my own residential facility to make sure my son has what he needs. And I'm looking into what that Ca, what that means today.

298

00:43:22.760 --> 00:43:31.400

Jacque Lukaszewicz: But well, okay, well, who's gonna run that when I'm gone? So now I have to think about that option right? And then, when I started looking at the rent.

299

00:43:31.400 --> 00:43:32.330

PamperedChef's iPhone (2): Something that really.

300

00:43:32.330 --> 00:43:33.396

Jacque Lukaszewicz: Oh, yeah.

301

00:43:33.930 --> 00:43:36.140

PamperedChef's iPhone (2): So be the smallest rate.

302

00:43:36.140 --> 00:43:36.750

Jacque Lukaszewicz: Well.

303

00:43:36.750 --> 00:43:37.180

PamperedChef's iPhone (2): Yeah, for me.

304

00:43:37.180 --> 00:43:38.640

Jacque Lukaszewicz: Expensive.

305

00:43:39.780 --> 00:44:00.909

Jacque Lukaszewicz: So now I'm looking at rent going? Okay? Well, yeah, I could open that. I could retire early. But do I get enough Federal monies. Do I get another gift enough State monies that I could actually pay people a quality wage to have a home that is of quality standard. And and let's talk about technology because other states

306

00:44:01.190 --> 00:44:06.660

Jacque Lukaszewicz: and one agency here in Delaware that operates Kent Chris.

307

00:44:06.710 --> 00:44:09.910

Jacque Lukaszewicz: or, as it could be Ken Crest, I could be saying, you're wrong.

308

00:44:10.040 --> 00:44:12.149

Jacque Lukaszewicz: They have a home in PA,

309

00:44:12.260 --> 00:44:23.790

Jacque Lukaszewicz: and they have all the bells and whistles of

technology, and we don't do that here. If you need so much as a door chime on a door, because my son is walking out the door, and we wanna make sure that

310

00:44:23.810 --> 00:44:35.360

Jacque Lukaszewicz: staff. Here's that chime. Well, you gotta go to a review board because they say a door chime is a restriction. And really you're kidding me. So if a staff member steps away to go to the restroom.

311

00:44:35.360 --> 00:44:35.950

PamperedChef's iPhone (2): Love.

312

00:44:35.950 --> 00:44:38.220

Jacque Lukaszewicz: Your time is a restriction.

313

00:44:38.320 --> 00:44:39.170

Jacque Lukaszewicz: and that.

314

00:44:39.170 --> 00:44:39.900

PamperedChef's iPhone (2): To your water.

315

00:44:39.900 --> 00:44:43.999

Jacque Lukaszewicz: Alert somebody to please make sure my son's not going down the street and be any.

316

00:44:44.000 --> 00:44:45.300

PamperedChef's iPhone (2): Wow! This morning.

317

00:44:45.300 --> 00:44:45.670

Jacque Lukaszewicz: In a.

318

00:44:46.144 --> 00:44:51.365

PamperedChef's iPhone (2): Couple is leaving me again for a new job in Singapore.

319

00:44:51.840 --> 00:44:54.570

Jacque Lukaszewicz: If you're not speaking, if you could go on mute, that would be great.

320

00:44:54.570 --> 00:44:56.050

PamperedChef's iPhone (2): To be close to the office.

321

00:44:56.050 --> 00:44:59.080

Liz O'Neill: Please mute your phone here yourself.

322

00:45:07.010 --> 00:45:12.330

Jacque Lukaszewicz: Phone, too. If you right click, you can mute it. Whoever is the administrator of the zoom.

323

00:45:12.330 --> 00:45:15.939

PamperedChef's iPhone (2): Dark, and it's not going to be. Oh, that's wonderful!

324

00:45:16.300 --> 00:45:18.510

Liz O'Neill: Double click on the pampered chef.

325

00:45:18.510 --> 00:45:19.830

PamperedChef's iPhone (2): National. It's right, click.

326

00:45:19.830 --> 00:45:20.839

Liz O'Neill: Connor and Hiccup.

327

00:45:21.302 --> 00:45:22.690

PamperedChef's iPhone (2): Yeah, I'll try.

328

00:45:22.690 --> 00:45:24.620

pat swanson: Try here. I'm trying right now.

329

00:45:24.620 --> 00:45:25.079

Liz O'Neill: There we go!

330

00:45:25.637 --> 00:45:26.319

pat swanson: Muted. Thank you.

331

00:45:26.320 --> 00:45:32.060

Jacque Lukaszewicz: So we shouldn't have to give up quality a care so that our loved ones can have a place to live.

332

00:45:32.450 --> 00:45:33.345

Jacque Lukaszewicz: And

333

00:45:34.340 --> 00:45:51.680

Jacque Lukaszewicz: That continuity of care. I I have written a book. So at this point there is a an entire book for my son's care, so that if something happens to me that at least it's written down. But what I find is people don't read. So now my next step is, I am actually starting to create my own online

334

00:45:51.760 --> 00:46:07.089

Jacque Lukaszewicz: audio and video education program so that staff can continually log on the, this is the extent of which we're going to as parents to make sure our loved ones get quality of care. And

335

00:46:08.020 --> 00:46:12.639

Jacque Lukaszewicz: so, while you are housing, I think you need to look at it holistically

336

00:46:12.740 --> 00:46:22.429

Jacque Lukaszewicz: and understand that we're not just dealing with. How nice is the house is where the house is located. How does it get repaired? We're talking about the full package.

337

00:46:23.035 --> 00:46:23.410

Jacque Lukaszewicz: and

338

00:46:23.630 --> 00:46:29.869

Jacque Lukaszewicz: so these are the challenges that I face. And I've actually asked myself, is is he in the right place

339

00:46:30.170 --> 00:46:33.590

Jacque Lukaszewicz: like? Is this the right place for him? Because

340

00:46:33.710 --> 00:46:41.650

Jacque Lukaszewicz: while there are staff getting paid, if I was not following up and doing all that I needed to do, each and every day.

341

00:46:42.170 --> 00:47:05.749

Jacque Lukaszewicz: he might not be getting the care that he's getting today, so I could continue to go. But I know there's other people that want to speak and need to speak, but I think that as you think about affordable housing, we, we have to address the other issues. It's not just one piece. They all go together. But we should not have to compromise standards. My son should live in a house that is comparable to what he grew up in.

342

00:47:06.260 --> 00:47:08.190

Jacque Lukaszewicz: I really appreciate your time.

343

00:47:08.820 --> 00:47:09.580

Russell Huxtable: Thank you.

344

00:47:10.498 --> 00:47:18.131

Liz O'Neill: And and in the chat there are a lot of comments about the care issues that people are experiencing and they and the needs

345

00:47:18.842 --> 00:47:32.960

Liz O'Neill: that we have around that issue. There are 4, at least 4 hands raised and we can go to them unless you know, we wanna comment at at all on Jackie's comments. Senator Huxtable, I think.

346

00:47:33.389 --> 00:47:38.980

Liz O'Neill: She she made herself pretty clear on on the needs and issues that we we face.

347

00:47:38.980 --> 00:47:39.860

Russell Huxtable: Yeah. Great.

348

00:47:40.581 --> 00:47:45.550

Liz O'Neill: Jody, do you wanna speak up? You've had your hand up for quite a while. Thanks for your patience.

349

00:47:45.870 --> 00:47:48.889

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: Hi, everyone. Actually, I think Ed was here first.

350

00:47:49.430 --> 00:47:50.800

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: Do you want to go, Ed?

351

00:47:52.220 --> 00:47:53.879

Liz O'Neill: Okay. Jody. Then Ed.

352

00:47:53.880 --> 00:48:17.950

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: Okay? So Hi, everyone. My name's Jody Hogan Toddler. Some of you know me. I, my son, was a brain injury survivor for almost 11 years. Catastrophic brain injury, survivor. He was 18, he ended up with all the you know, the tubes and all of that. I struggled in Delaware many ways to get care for him. Mainly he had to go out of state

353

00:48:17.970 --> 00:48:46.579

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: for care in Delaware. That's a long story. All of it to say that I've been in all of these shoes. I know that there's no place in like home for somebody, and we all are still trying to work and live and care for people that are. You know, they need 24, 7. It's hard. However, what I'm gonna speak on tonight is a different thing or a different side of it. So I work at a center for independent living, in which we are

354

00:48:46.580 --> 00:49:15.570

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: all about people with disability. We are people with disabilities, helping people with disabilities to be in the community. Right? So what does that look like like we do? We can help people learn how to budget, or we can do home modifications, or we can we help people get out of nursing homes? All this different kind of stuff? Number one ask is housing always the hardest thing for me as an employer I have to employ people with disabilities.

355

00:49:15.630 --> 00:49:31.839

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: Do you know that someone that's on event or in a wheelchair there, there's not enough insurance in the private world to cover what they need. Right? So if you have someone that is vet dependent, and requires, say, an an aid or a nurse to be with them.

356

00:49:31.850 --> 00:49:37.589

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: even though they can do the work they have to be on Medicaid to get coverage

357

00:49:37.750 --> 00:49:48.590

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: for that as an end,

you know. So as an employer, I'm stuck, having to only pay them a certain amount of wages where they can only work a little bit of hours

358

00:49:48.630 --> 00:49:51.350

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: so that they don't lose their benefits

359

00:49:51.760 --> 00:50:10.840

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: right? Currently. I have a gentleman who is wheelchair bound? He's a he's went to college. He is a oh, what is? He's a programmer by trade, you know. He's a computer person, does all the programming and can build you anything, websites and all of that.

360

00:50:10.990 --> 00:50:26.850

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: but he can't make enough money to support himself and cover all of the costs for his needs. So he comes and works for me for minimum wage, and has to watch how many hours he can work. He can't afford to get his own place.

361

00:50:27.290 --> 00:50:30.710

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: He wants to be independent even in an apartment.

362

00:50:30.980 --> 00:50:40.399

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: But there is a big gap, and this is where our legislatures come in right. There's a big gap between what he can earn.

363

00:50:40.630 --> 00:50:52.610

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: and the cost of living is like this. So he's forced to have to stay in a supported situation like with his mother on Medicaid.

364

00:50:52.670 --> 00:51:07.439

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: and not able to buy his own space or get a job to pay enough to care for herself. There's this big gap in there for those folks, and I'm more than willing to come to the table and talk about ways to

365

00:51:07.450 --> 00:51:08.990

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: help bridge that gap.

366

00:51:09.220 --> 00:51:12.020

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: People with disabilities want to work

367

00:51:13.510 --> 00:51:14.450

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: and

368

00:51:14.610 --> 00:51:17.770

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: but they're forced to stay in poverty

369

00:51:19.210 --> 00:51:22.050

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: to get the needs that they, you know, to get what they need

370

00:51:22.330 --> 00:51:24.639

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: not just a little bit of poverty.

371

00:51:24.960 --> 00:51:26.700

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: complete poverty.

372

00:51:26.870 --> 00:51:34.710

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: I also have another employee. She is a she went to Temple four-year degree in criminal justice.

373

00:51:34.730 --> 00:51:36.450

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: Same situation.

374

00:51:40.160 --> 00:51:41.200

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: Yeah, that's

375

00:51:41.600 --> 00:51:46.475

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: any ideas on how to help their housing situation, or their big gap.

376

00:51:46.850 --> 00:51:50.950

Russell Huxtable: No, but I mean there, we need to have you know.

377

00:51:51.160 --> 00:51:55.266

Russell Huxtable: We need not be afraid of the conversation. I don't know where you went.

378

00:51:55.550 --> 00:51:58.349

Russell Huxtable: We need not be afraid of the conversation.

379

00:52:00.190 --> 00:52:06.430

Russell Huxtable: On on these issues, and and you know, discuss universal health care,

380

00:52:07.270 --> 00:52:12.660

Russell Huxtable: etc, etc. So you said you had an idea like I

381

00:52:12.960 --> 00:52:15.840

Russell Huxtable: pat, if you could send out my email after this

382

00:52:16.220 --> 00:52:23.930

Russell Huxtable: like I wanna hear, I wanna take him in, and I wanna see what I can do. So you know, this is what we're here for. So.

383

00:52:23.930 --> 00:52:26.192

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: I appreciate it. Yeah, we would.

384

00:52:26.570 --> 00:52:27.790

pat swanson: We will share it. Yeah.

385

00:52:27.790 --> 00:52:29.312

Jody Hougentogler (she/her) The Freedom Center: Yeah, thank, you.

386

00:52:30.610 --> 00:52:33.350

Liz O'Neill: Thanks, Jody. Ed, you've been waiting patiently.

387

00:52:33.850 --> 00:52:35.439

Liz O'Neill: Then we have Leslie and the.

388

00:52:35.440 --> 00:52:37.100

Ed Gootzait: You very much too.

389

00:52:39.660 --> 00:52:41.719

Ed Gootzait: things. One picking up

390

00:52:42.570 --> 00:52:43.730

Ed Gootzait: coincid

391

00:52:44.310 --> 00:52:45.820

Ed Gootzait: dently from what

392

00:52:45.890 --> 00:52:48.210

Ed Gootzait: Jody just said.

393

00:52:48.850 --> 00:52:50.749

Ed Gootzait: there are a

394

00:52:50.840 --> 00:52:52.990

Ed Gootzait: number of states

395

00:52:54.100 --> 00:52:58.849

Ed Gootzait: that have increased their Medicaid asset

396

00:52:59.270 --> 00:53:00.360

Ed Gootzait: limit

397

00:53:01.320 --> 00:53:03.130

Ed Gootzait: in a conversation

398

00:53:03.780 --> 00:53:05.730

Ed Gootzait: station I'm having

399

00:53:06.040 --> 00:53:07.620

Ed Gootzait: with a

400

00:53:08.680 --> 00:53:11.269

Ed Gootzait: senior person in

401

00:53:12.770 --> 00:53:14.280

Ed Gootzait: Delaware's

402

00:53:14.720 --> 00:53:15.600

Ed Gootzait: of

403

00:53:15.860 --> 00:53:16.940

Ed Gootzait: government.

404

00:53:18.779 --> 00:53:23.000

Ed Gootzait: It became clear that. And this is a quote

405

00:53:24.030 --> 00:53:27.630

Ed Gootzait: the quote, is California.

406

00:53:28.190 --> 00:53:29.030

Ed Gootzait: as

407

00:53:30.050 --> 00:53:31.470

Ed Gootzait: in fact.

408

00:53:31.660 --> 00:53:33.730

Ed Gootzait: done away with

409

00:53:34.320 --> 00:53:36.840

Ed Gootzait: any Medicaid asset

410

00:53:37.240 --> 00:53:38.330

Ed Gootzait: limits.

411

00:53:38.900 --> 00:53:40.129

Ed Gootzait: There are. So

412

00:53:40.340 --> 00:53:41.950

Ed Gootzait: okay, that

413

00:53:42.280 --> 00:53:45.920

Ed Gootzait: limit here is 2,000

414

00:53:46.420 --> 00:53:47.590

Ed Gootzait: dollars.

415

00:53:47.890 --> 00:53:49.010

Ed Gootzait: There are so

416

00:53:49.590 --> 00:53:51.460

Ed Gootzait: dates that have

417

00:53:52.290 --> 00:53:53.810

Ed Gootzait: 10,000,

418

00:53:54.690 --> 00:53:56.950

Ed Gootzait: 20,000.

419

00:53:58.370 --> 00:54:01.500

Ed Gootzait: What that causes is homelessness.

420

00:54:03.320 --> 00:54:06.390

Ed Gootzait: that is a cause of homelessness.

421

00:54:06.470 --> 00:54:09.910

Ed Gootzait: In fact, the statistic show

422

00:54:10.330 --> 00:54:11.140

Ed Gootzait: that

423

00:54:12.560 --> 00:54:14.390

Ed Gootzait: nationwide.

424

00:54:15.540 --> 00:54:18.899

Ed Gootzait: approaching 40%

425

00:54:19.210 --> 00:54:22.110

Ed Gootzait: of the persons who are homeless

426

00:54:22.730 --> 00:54:25.330

Ed Gootzait: are persons with a discipline

427

00:54:25.450 --> 00:54:26.650

Ed Gootzait: abilities.

428

00:54:26.800 --> 00:54:28.340

Ed Gootzait: It is that High

429

00:54:28.570 --> 00:54:29.610

Ed Gootzait: and

430

00:54:29.820 --> 00:54:30.720

Ed Gootzait: Watt.

431

00:54:30.880 --> 00:54:31.660

Ed Gootzait: this

432

00:54:32.180 --> 00:54:35.220

Ed Gootzait: State and Federal

433

00:54:37.690 --> 00:54:41.129

Ed Gootzait: government also is not looking at

434

00:54:41.500 --> 00:54:42.560

Ed Gootzait: is.

435

00:54:43.000 --> 00:54:47.339

Ed Gootzait: what is the cost of not supporting

436

00:54:47.860 --> 00:54:51.250

Ed Gootzait: these people that is not free.

437

00:54:51.560 --> 00:54:54.220

Ed Gootzait: That comes with an actual

438

00:54:54.820 --> 00:54:56.340

Ed Gootzait: dollar impact.

439

00:54:57.090 --> 00:55:00.550

Ed Gootzait: So it just makes no sense.

440

00:55:01.560 --> 00:55:03.670

Ed Gootzait: So that that that's

441

00:55:04.410 --> 00:55:05.750

Ed Gootzait: one thing.

442

00:55:07.570 --> 00:55:08.930

Ed Gootzait: Second thing is

443

00:55:09.400 --> 00:55:11.779

Ed Gootzait: picking up on what others have

444

00:55:12.150 --> 00:55:13.130

Ed Gootzait: said.

445

00:55:15.062 --> 00:55:17.270

Ed Gootzait: We need to look

446

00:55:17.850 --> 00:55:19.460

Ed Gootzait: at what others

447

00:55:19.610 --> 00:55:20.890

Ed Gootzait: dates are

448

00:55:21.420 --> 00:55:22.420

Ed Gootzait: doing

449

00:55:23.790 --> 00:55:26.900

Ed Gootzait: next month the a team will have

450

00:55:27.100 --> 00:55:27.910

Ed Gootzait: Ace

451

00:55:28.360 --> 00:55:31.400

Ed Gootzait: speaker from a group in California.

452

00:55:31.850 --> 00:55:33.039

Ed Gootzait: It's called the

453

00:55:33.360 --> 00:55:34.630

Ed Gootzait: Kelsey.

454

00:55:35.160 --> 00:55:35.910

Ed Gootzait: have

455

00:55:36.390 --> 00:55:38.610

Ed Gootzait: done in California.

456

00:55:38.650 --> 00:55:41.820

Ed Gootzait: California and are helping others.

457

00:55:42.200 --> 00:55:45.470

Ed Gootzait: Dates put up real

458

00:55:45.670 --> 00:55:53.520

Ed Gootzait: housing options for persons with disabilities takes them off the street.

459

00:55:54.990 --> 00:55:57.129

Ed Gootzait: and if you have the time.

460

00:55:57.220 --> 00:55:58.879

Ed Gootzait: that would be

461

00:56:00.020 --> 00:56:02.970

Ed Gootzait: that that should interest you.

462

00:56:04.710 --> 00:56:08.690

Russell Huxtable: Yeah, yeah, I I I agree, like, you know.

463

00:56:08.940 --> 00:56:27.229

Russell Huxtable: I I mentioned it in in part of my brief remarks. I think we address a lot of symptoms rather than addressing the root cause. And we we dance around certain things, for for what reason? I'm I am not sure, you know I I'm the new guy so I don't mind asking those questions and

464

00:56:27.290 --> 00:56:29.869

Russell Huxtable: and getting answers, so we can

465

00:56:29.990 --> 00:56:45.699

Russell Huxtable: make better policy. I mean, that's what we all want. We just want better policy. So what are the obstacles? And how can we? How can we work together to get that done? And you know they they are complex issues, and it'll it'll take some time. But they're not insurmountable.

466

00:56:46.230 --> 00:56:47.730

Ed Gootzait: They? They

467

00:56:47.870 --> 00:56:52.889

Ed Gootzait: they are. And and one thing we all have to keep in mind, too.

468

00:56:53.450 --> 00:56:54.740

Ed Gootzait: is that

469

00:56:56.980 --> 00:56:59.590

Ed Gootzait: it? Housing is healthcare.

470

00:57:00.359 --> 00:57:00.990

Ed Gootzait: Yeah.

471

00:57:01.380 --> 00:57:05.590

Ed Gootzait: it is health care, and if someone

472

00:57:05.940 --> 00:57:09.519

Ed Gootzait: doesn't have adequate housing doesn't have the

473

00:57:09.540 --> 00:57:10.690

Ed Gootzait: air

474

00:57:11.090 --> 00:57:12.790

Ed Gootzait: that they have to have

475

00:57:14.010 --> 00:57:15.920

Ed Gootzait: what happens with

476

00:57:16.110 --> 00:57:17.990

Ed Gootzait: a majority of

477

00:57:18.480 --> 00:57:25.540

Ed Gootzait: then they wind up in the hospital and who pays?

478

00:57:25.700 --> 00:57:26.410

Ed Gootzait: Yep.

479

00:57:26.570 --> 00:57:27.340

Ed Gootzait: yeah.

480

00:57:27.480 --> 00:57:35.530

Russell Huxtable: So. Just briefly. So, the State of Delaware had been investing in what's called the Housing Development Fund

481

00:57:35.760 --> 00:57:45.600

Russell Huxtable: since 1987 or so each and every year they they funded 4 million dollars from the general fund

482

00:57:45.680 --> 00:57:48.089

Russell Huxtable: to address affordable housing.

483

00:57:49.150 --> 00:57:52.460

Russell Huxtable: It never was increased for population, growth

484

00:57:53.022 --> 00:57:56.640

Russell Huxtable: or or inflation, or anything of that nature.

485

00:57:56.840 --> 00:58:00.689

Russell Huxtable: until last year, where we approved 31, and a half 1 million.

486

00:58:00.750 --> 00:58:09.579

Russell Huxtable: and then put another 70 million from Arpa, but I still think we missed the mark. I think we should have done more from Arpa into housing to to provide

487

00:58:10.763 --> 00:58:15.107

Russell Huxtable: housing options. Housing is healthcare. You know.

488

00:58:15.790 --> 00:58:27.470

Russell Huxtable: we have. We have a lot of work to do, and we spend 18 million dollars a year on on transportation of kids who are experiencing homelessness in the school districts.

489

00:58:28.204 --> 00:58:42.510

Russell Huxtable: So they bus like. If if if we call sudden experience almost this with my kids to have a stable environment. They stay in the in the Cape School district. But now let's say we're living in Dover, because that's where we could get housing first.

490

00:58:43.200 --> 00:58:48.960

Russell Huxtable: We'll spend the State spends 18 million dollars busing, busing kids. So they have the that.

491

00:58:49.320 --> 00:58:50.029

Claire P: 'cause they can be.

492

00:58:50.030 --> 00:58:52.459

Russell Huxtable: Their their kids and their teachers.

493

00:58:52.900 --> 00:58:53.340

Claire P: But.

494

00:58:53.732 --> 00:58:58.830

Russell Huxtable: We only invested 4 million in the in the in the root issue.

495

00:58:58.990 --> 00:59:09.969

Russell Huxtable: So this is where you know I'm I'm hoping to put the priorities back on what it should be. The number one issue. If we invest in housing, it also provides the house housing optionality. So yeah, thank you.

496

00:59:11.090 --> 00:59:32.992

pat swanson: So, and thanks Ed for mentioning our next next group who's gonna be speaking in May. And I encourage everybody on the on the call to to join. I think it's gonna be a really interesting conversation. And just to prove the point that we're talking about tonight, Liz had to drop off to go take care of her daughter.

497

00:59:33.510 --> 00:59:38.643

pat swanson: So I'm gonna be ending the meeting here, and

498

00:59:39.220 --> 00:59:43.469

pat swanson: I see. See. And Gilbert, am I, pronouncing your name correctly.

499

00:59:45.550 --> 00:59:48.000

pat swanson: You need to. You need to come off mute.

500

00:59:51.640 --> 00:59:54.449

pat swanson: Oh, yeah, see. And you're you're muted

501

00:59:58.690 --> 00:59:59.700

pat swanson: okay.

502

01:00:00.087 --> 01:00:05.979

pat swanson: It to save time, Leslie, do you want to come on until Fee Ann can get off mute.

503

01:00:08.590 --> 01:00:10.169

Cansler, Leslie A: Sure. Can you hear me.

504

01:00:10.170 --> 01:00:13.430

pat swanson: Yes. Uhhuh, we'll come back to you. The end.

505

01:00:13.590 --> 01:00:14.389
pat swanson: Okay, yeah.

506

01:00:14.681 --> 01:00:25.160
Cansler, Leslie A: Hi! My name is Leslie Cancel, and I have a couple of things that I wanted to bring up. But first I'd like to briefly tell you a very quick story. I do have

507

01:00:26.500 --> 01:00:40.519
Cansler, Leslie A: some experience, both with taking care of a severely disabled child who's now 19. But I also have experience in taking care of a 102 year old father who recently passed away last year.

508

01:00:41.072 --> 01:00:50.249
Cansler, Leslie A: The brief story is is that I did have both of those individuals in my house at one time, and both of them required

509

01:00:50.360 --> 01:00:59.870
Cansler, Leslie A: equal amounts of care. At 1 point or another. We did have some aids that did come into the house, home, health.

510

01:01:00.550 --> 01:01:04.770
Cansler, Leslie A: beads that came into a house for my son after school.

511

01:01:04.780 --> 01:01:27.939
Cansler, Leslie A: and we also had close to 24 h. Care for my father through through the help of home health aides. But we couldn't get full care but for my father he was not disabled, and he was on Medicare, not Medicaid, and so he had to pay out of pocket for all of that care which for anyone who's curious to know that

512

01:01:28.180 --> 01:01:33.250
Cansler, Leslie A: care cost over \$200,000 a year.

513

01:01:34.830 --> 01:01:38.300
Cansler, Leslie A: so I bring that up only to point out the

514

01:01:38.540 --> 01:01:44.519
Cansler, Leslie A: fact that in some cases it is possible to house

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01:01:45.062 --> 01:01:53.919

Cansler, Leslie A: an adult child of special needs or disability as well as an aging parent, and have help for both individuals.

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01:01:54.369 --> 01:02:14.669

Cansler, Leslie A: One of the things that I wanted to bring to the table and also ask you, is whether or not it has been thought about about allowing houses that are owned by these parents of these children. As they age to become itself a group home that would also serve as a

517

01:02:15.610 --> 01:02:25.744

Cansler, Leslie A: for the aged adult to allow care for them as well as the child. I know there was previous mention, I think, by Ruth

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01:02:26.190 --> 01:02:28.579

Cansler, Leslie A: who mentioned concern about

519

01:02:29.830 --> 01:02:44.099

Cansler, Leslie A: when she ages her family ages along with her child and I. It is. It is definitely something that needs to be brought to the table, because I have personally seen and witnessed what it looks like.

520

01:02:44.475 --> 01:02:59.874

Cansler, Leslie A: Making sure that you have one level living, making sure that you have. You know all the proper things in place that you would think of for your child. Those same things could also be needed for an adult aged parent.

521

01:03:00.250 --> 01:03:06.939

Cansler, Leslie A: so that is definitely needed. You know I have this wonderful home that I just bought 2 years ago.

522

01:03:07.314 --> 01:03:26.765

Cansler, Leslie A: I hope to, you know, be able to pay it off and age gracefully into the home but there might. There's gonna come a time where I'm going to age. My husband's going to age, and we're gonna find ourselves in need of help and quite possibly need to be moved elsewhere. But until that time happens,

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01:03:27.140 --> 01:03:29.977

Cansler, Leslie A: And or if we should pass

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01:03:30.620 --> 01:03:39.080

Cansler, Leslie A: and the house happens to be paid off, or there's funding to pay off the house, why not allow that house to become my son's house, but

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01:03:41.410 --> 01:03:56.860

Cansler, Leslie A: only for the purposes of allowing him to live there. And have the State take care of all the whatever is needed to allow him to live there. That was one thing that I wanted to ask you whether or not that was an option that is either already available or could be made available.

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01:03:57.250 --> 01:04:11.210

Cansler, Leslie A: The other things quickly that I I made a whole bunch of notes. So I'm just gonna just like spit fire at you. What is being done about making sure that the properties or locations that you mentioned that are available? For that

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01:04:12.650 --> 01:04:22.360

Cansler, Leslie A: housed by loved ones are in proper upkeep or in working order, and are actual, livable also. Are there any options surrounding having?

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01:04:22.670 --> 01:04:28.590

Cansler, Leslie A: I'm sorry I already asked that question. Are they looking into the future as far as statistically to determine.

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01:04:29.940 --> 01:04:39.300

Cansler, Leslie A: and the probability of how many housing units will be needed, based on how many eligible, disabled individuals there are currently or will be based on the age of time of need. Also.

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01:04:39.980 --> 01:05:07.849

Cansler, Leslie A: also, what about the safety of our kids and adults? Who are going to be placed into the key designated areas that you spoke of previously. What about spending for protection for these individuals in these key locations? Does the weatherization and roof repair program that you also mentioned include full replacement of roofs based on age, when and where needed, and as far as the accessory

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01:05:09.220 --> 01:05:21.310

Cansler, Leslie A: dwelling units. Would this include the building of an addition to an existing home, to allow for one level living for those that will need it? And is this option available for the aging population, as well as the disabled.

532

01:05:22.990 --> 01:05:44.160

Russell Huxtable: Alright. So you packed a lot of questions in there, and I probably don't remember all of them. I so I apologize. I don't think there's any restrictions on you being able to in a will. Give your home to your child. But then, providing services in there, I I'd have to. I don't think there'd be an issue there if you, if they currently

533

01:05:44.230 --> 01:05:56.900

Russell Huxtable: can do that, I I think I'd have to explore exactly what you meant there a little bit. The home repair program that you mentioned? Yes, it's it's it's it's a full home.

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01:05:57.710 --> 01:06:02.430

Russell Huxtable: It's done according to the needs of the house. So if it's if it needs to be a full

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01:06:02.450 --> 01:06:09.970

Russell Huxtable: roof, repair replacement than it is if it can be done by like alright. We just need to do this part.

536

01:06:10.330 --> 01:06:28.841

Russell Huxtable: then that's what you know. So there's an assessment that goes into it. That's done by qualified folks that that know how to project, manage those things so. And I I probably won't be able to get. Send me an email with them. And I I'll be happy to take a look at at some of your questions. Accessory dwelling units.

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01:06:29.743 --> 01:06:30.390

Cansler, Leslie A: Thank you!

538

01:06:30.390 --> 01:06:44.199

Russell Huxtable: Yeah, yeah. And the the accessory dwelling unit program. We, we basically say, like Granny flats additions or even detached structures should be allowed on someone's home. And that's

then we're

539

01:06:44.200 --> 01:07:03.300

Russell Huxtable: we're really telling the local jurisdiction you need to pass an adu ordinance, and we don't want you to put. We don't want you to make super high barriers, because we don't want an ordinance be created, but then invalidated because they put so many hoops and hurdles on there that they

540

01:07:03.380 --> 01:07:18.569

Russell Huxtable: hey? We have an 80 ordinance. Can't build it, because we've told you you need 5 off street parking, and you can't get it right? So there's there's there's a give and take there. So we're just trying to knock down some barriers to provide additional housing options.

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01:07:20.070 --> 01:07:23.960

pat swanson: Okay, I'm gonna try sean one more time.

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01:07:24.300 --> 01:07:24.980

Russell Huxtable: Yeah, sure.

543

01:07:26.330 --> 01:07:29.620

pat swanson: there looks like you're unmuted now, can you?

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01:07:29.730 --> 01:07:30.380

pat swanson: Very good.

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01:07:30.380 --> 01:07:30.993

Theand Gilbert: Thank you.

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01:07:31.620 --> 01:07:31.940

pat swanson: Right

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01:07:32.790 --> 01:07:44.320

Theand Gilbert: I did have one comment in regards to what Leslie was saying, cause I think you said it would probably be fine if she did leave her house. But wouldn't that put him way over the current allowance of \$2,000

548

01:07:44.340 --> 01:07:46.849

Theand Gilbert: if technically, that was something she could do.

549

01:07:47.700 --> 01:07:48.019

Theand Gilbert: Yeah.

550

01:07:48.020 --> 01:07:51.460

Russell Huxtable: I think that was what Ed had brought up. And I think that's something that we need to.

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01:07:51.560 --> 01:07:56.690

Russell Huxtable: We need to look into like you know you shouldn't have to go into poverty to get the healthcare that you need.

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01:07:57.440 --> 01:07:57.860

Theand Gilbert: Right.

553

01:07:58.212 --> 01:08:13.369

pat swanson: Just to let you know we're gonna in June. We're having a session on trust, and by through the use of trust. There are a lot of ways that you can put the assets there. So tune in in June.

554

01:08:13.540 --> 01:08:14.180

Russell Huxtable: Yeah.

555

01:08:14.530 --> 01:08:17.240

Theand Gilbert: Okay? And my original hand raised.

556

01:08:17.359 --> 01:08:18.220

Theand Gilbert: Hum.

557

01:08:19.279 --> 01:08:26.734

Theand Gilbert: just something. I also wanted to address overall with the housing, which is obviously a huge concern for all of us.

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01:08:27.250 --> 01:08:37.920

Theand Gilbert: I did put this in the chat earlier. My son has been in a group home since July. He was in 2 previous homes prior to that. After he turned 18.

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01:08:40.160 --> 01:08:45.050

Theand Gilbert: One thing that concerns me is a lot is the fact that there doesn't seem to be enough. Oversight.

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01:08:45.240 --> 01:08:49.519

Theand Gilbert: Cameras is is like not an option. It's not that. It's like

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01:08:49.810 --> 01:08:55.129

Theand Gilbert: something that the State or Dds. Says no to, but his particular group home says No to it.

562

01:08:55.819 --> 01:09:02.029

Theand Gilbert: This is a vulnerable community, and I'm not saying to put a camera in the bathroom where the employees go. But

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01:09:02.359 --> 01:09:09.600

Theand Gilbert: I can tell you from my son being in a group home and from having home health aides in my home prior to his residential.

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01:09:10.080 --> 01:09:14.109

Theand Gilbert: There is a lot of stuff that happens, and I'm sorry for anyone here that this might

565

01:09:14.189 --> 01:09:16.489

Theand Gilbert: scare. But it is a reality.

566

01:09:17.290 --> 01:09:24.849

Theand Gilbert: I put a camera in my house and saw a home health aid, sleeping for hours before I sent my boyfriend home to wake him up.

567

01:09:25.090 --> 01:09:26.489

Theand Gilbert: My son had

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01:09:26.609 --> 01:09:47.589

Theand Gilbert: his pants around his ankles, cause he hadn't been changed hadn't been fed hadn't been given his medicine. The guy had a sharp knife sitting out on the counter. The reason my son was home with the nurse is because he had a laparotomy, because at daycare they weren't watching him, and he swallowed a top and had to have a

laparotomy. So the fact that he left a knife out

569

01:09:48.010 --> 01:09:58.630

Theand Gilbert: was a little scary. He also pulled his feeding tube out when he had another aid with him. He's had marks on his face with different stories from the residential he's been in.

570

01:09:59.070 --> 01:10:00.619

Theand Gilbert: I feel like

571

01:10:00.970 --> 01:10:03.989

Theand Gilbert: for them to say that it's a hipaa thing

572

01:10:04.200 --> 01:10:13.910

Theand Gilbert: when a guardian is requesting that, and their child is the only other person in the house other than Staff is a little farfetched. I think that we need to do better for our vulnerable community.

573

01:10:15.470 --> 01:10:21.639

Russell Huxtable: Yeah. And and on that I I had a constituent who was having this issue, and

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01:10:21.660 --> 01:10:30.139

Russell Huxtable: we were able to make sure it was, it was at their. It was at the family's expense that put the cameras in the group home, but they were able to

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01:10:30.410 --> 01:10:32.470

Russell Huxtable: to to do it so.

576

01:10:32.470 --> 01:10:34.649

Theand Gilbert: No, I offered I I

577

01:10:35.080 --> 01:10:40.110

Theand Gilbert: it wasn't me asking them to pay for it. It was me asking me to put them in, and they said No.

578

01:10:41.623 --> 01:10:42.410

Shannon Liew's iPhone (2): Oh! What!

579

01:10:42.410 --> 01:10:43.180

Russell Huxtable: Who are living.

580

01:10:43.180 --> 01:10:49.627

pat swanson: Things. If I can just say this quickly, we're having a hard time. Balancing is

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01:10:50.790 --> 01:10:52.990

pat swanson: rights and freedoms.

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01:10:53.130 --> 01:11:14.139

pat swanson: and the capacity that people have to take care of themselves, and to be safe, we need to start like you were talking about Senator Huxtable having difficult conversations. We we need to have some difficult conversations around here. This is arguably one of the most vulnerable populations.

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01:11:14.140 --> 01:11:25.469

pat swanson: It it's like a, as your parents get older and start getting having some dementia, and you have to start putting place.

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01:11:25.480 --> 01:11:49.990

pat swanson: putting more things in place to ensure their safety. Well, we'll take that for our kids and multiply those last 5 years of your parents. Life, times sick, you know it. It's 60 years. It's it's all their lives. And and there these things are kind of been pushed by the side. And it's time we start talking about them, because they're very obviously you're hearing tonight. All of this is very real.

585

01:11:50.100 --> 01:11:52.741

pat swanson: This isn't made up so.

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01:11:53.856 --> 01:11:58.880

pat swanson: we appreciate your comments. The Ann and Ed, did you have another question?

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01:12:00.880 --> 01:12:02.300

pat swanson: Oh, okay.

588

01:12:02.968 --> 01:12:05.810
pat swanson: are there any other questions?

589
01:12:06.772 --> 01:12:08.250
pat swanson: From the group

590
01:12:09.620 --> 01:12:11.320
pat swanson: I, Joyce.

591
01:12:14.850 --> 01:12:16.699
Joyce EM/ HUB 302: Hi! Yes, thank you. I'd ask it.

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01:12:16.700 --> 01:12:17.520
Shannon Liew's iPhone (2): In, the.

593
01:12:18.670 --> 01:12:20.210
Joyce EM/ HUB 302: and the chat.

594
01:12:20.400 --> 01:12:32.019
Joyce EM/ HUB 302: My concern is, there are so many housing conversations going on all over the place, so much money being passed all over the place for housing lots of discussions. However.

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01:12:32.140 --> 01:12:56.159
Joyce EM/ HUB 302: I'd like to know how much time is actually spent in the conversation about safe and appropriate housing for lower and higher functioning persons with Idd and all those housing conversations. I have a feeling it is probably a point something because it's not where the money is I. I saw a trade party, and he simply told me that.

596
01:12:56.575 --> 01:13:15.759
Joyce EM/ HUB 302: You know the old people have worked. They put their money into the system. And it's between that and then taking care of these individuals that give nothing to the system. And so I really would like to know what percentage of conversations regarding housing actually has to do with the Idd population.

597
01:13:18.300 --> 01:13:40.947
Russell Huxtable: So I so currently, I've been trying to address it holistically as a community development issue and people who have

intellectual disabilities are part of our community. So this is part of my engagement is to have these conversations. I participated in the in the Life Conference. So

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01:13:41.620 --> 01:13:48.660

Russell Huxtable: Having a a zoom full of of advocates is helpful for me.

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01:13:50.360 --> 01:13:53.240

Russell Huxtable: to to help formulate

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01:13:53.280 --> 01:13:55.394

Russell Huxtable: the right solutions.

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01:13:56.280 --> 01:13:57.509

Russell Huxtable: for for everybody.

602

01:13:57.720 --> 01:14:00.359

Russell Huxtable: because it's it's not, you know.

603

01:14:00.650 --> 01:14:05.910

Russell Huxtable: I I don't believe in. And I I believe in the power of Ann. You know we we have.

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01:14:06.140 --> 01:14:15.000

Russell Huxtable: you know, people with with intellectual disabilities accessible accessibility issues, and and we need to address all of them.

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01:14:15.562 --> 01:14:20.269

Russell Huxtable: And so I don't think, at least in my conversations. I don't

606

01:14:20.530 --> 01:14:21.660

Russell Huxtable: dismiss it.

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01:14:21.770 --> 01:14:22.670

Russell Huxtable: you know

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01:14:22.870 --> 01:14:32.549

Russell Huxtable: it's part of the reasons why I I am. I'm really glad that Pat and Vernon reached out, and and that, you know I'm having these conversations with you right now.

609

01:14:33.110 --> 01:14:40.283

vhensley with Easterseals: Yeah, I just wanted to chime in there, too, Senator. Because and Joyce, that's exactly right. That is why we wanted to have Senator Huxtable

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01:14:40.780 --> 01:14:51.840

vhensley with Easterseals: up as part of this conversation tonight. Because that's how we get these issues. We create more awareness among the legislature in terms of you know

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01:14:52.480 --> 01:15:02.610

vhensley with Easterseals: our population has very specific needs, and this is how we educate and share, to make sure that they are going to be part of those conversations that are that are happening.

612

01:15:03.950 --> 01:15:04.560

pat swanson: Yeah.

613

01:15:05.086 --> 01:15:10.630

pat swanson: yeah, thanks for being here. And thanks for your question. Joan Kelly, I believe you're next.

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01:15:14.325 --> 01:15:15.294

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: Yes, thanks.

615

01:15:15.840 --> 01:15:21.940

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: What I'm gonna say is probably gonna sound ridiculous because it is a little far fetched, but every time that I see

616

01:15:22.090 --> 01:15:30.700

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: the Mega ball or the Powerball go up to like ridiculous amounts of millions of dollars. I play like crazy because my prayer and my prayer.

617

01:15:30.760 --> 01:15:32.869

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: when I play is that?

618

01:15:33.150 --> 01:15:50.710

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: And I say this to so many strangers when I'm grabbing a ticket, or wherever. And I tell them you know I mimic Ruth Lavelle. I don't know everyone else's children, but my son Ian is Mr. Joyful, Mr. Happy. He's involved in everything, our churches and this that, and the other, and everybody knows him, and

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01:15:50.810 --> 01:15:55.060

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: half the time I don't even know who these people are that Ian meets in the community. But

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01:15:55.090 --> 01:16:08.679

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: you know my vision is that I could build a community for all of our adult children, whereby they would each have, like a one bedroom apartment with like a little den, so they could use that as their computer room, because most of our kids love electronics.

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01:16:09.313 --> 01:16:19.276

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: And then with all the you know, with all like for those that work, or whatever have a a protected paratransit hub. Have tennis courts have

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01:16:20.105 --> 01:16:27.820

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: basketball courts maybe have a little convenience center where they can go get their soda, or wherever or if they need bread for the morning for sandwiches.

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01:16:28.665 --> 01:16:32.949

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: Cause. We have kids on all different abilities here.

624

01:16:33.307 --> 01:16:39.859

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: But you know I, too, work full time, and I retire in 2 years and 7 months. But who's counting

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01:16:40.583 --> 01:16:44.319

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: and I would very much need help.

626

01:16:44.790 --> 01:16:48.100

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: I don't think it's unreasonable. If someone could help me

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01:16:48.170 --> 01:16:54.140

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: reach out to people like Jeff Bezos and and the Microsoft Guy Gates.

628

01:16:54.150 --> 01:16:57.819

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: these people have billions and billions of dollars, and they're not

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01:16:57.840 --> 01:17:06.519

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: giving it to their kids. They wanna they, wanna you know, do good things in their community. My son's coming home. He's gonna get loud. He was with his dad at Seattle lessons.

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01:17:06.720 --> 01:17:22.429

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: But you know, if anybody wants to, you know, knock on my door and put heads together and see how we can reach out to these folks. I know Bezo's wife gives a lot of money. His ex gives a lot of money out to to community needs. And why couldn't Delaware be the be the

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01:17:23.280 --> 01:17:30.850

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: be the star thing that other States could could replicate pie in the sky. But I just felt like I needed to say.

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01:17:31.150 --> 01:17:32.109

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: because I'm in the.

633

01:17:32.110 --> 01:17:34.500

pat swanson: Joan, and thanks for being here.

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01:17:34.710 --> 01:17:41.820

Russell Huxtable: And and, Joan, I think, like I I don't think you're quite off base. I think I can't remember who said it earlier. But Delaware is.

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01:17:42.200 --> 01:17:42.790

Russell Huxtable: I'll stay.

636

01:17:42.790 --> 01:17:43.280

Shannon Liew's iPhone (2): And.

637

01:17:43.613 --> 01:18:02.279

Russell Huxtable: And we have the ability to, I think, experiment and and try things that are that are cutting edge and be able to pivot quickly. At least, that that is my hope and and and goal. So yeah, I think I think you're you're you're on board there, and we need to empower.

638

01:18:02.280 --> 01:18:18.829

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: Please use me. I mean, I sleep very little, and I work full time, and I have the ability to work from home. But I say, use me whatever I can do. I have a big mouth, and I don't really care, you know, to use it. I I just will do whatever. If I could get some people on board to help me, because I can't do it alone.

639

01:18:19.150 --> 01:18:31.090

Russell Huxtable: Right? Yeah. And that's the great thing about having you know this group and the advocates making connections. That that's.

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01:18:31.090 --> 01:18:31.920

Shannon Liew's iPhone (2): That's really important.

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01:18:31.920 --> 01:18:32.640

Russell Huxtable: But this.

642

01:18:32.900 --> 01:18:35.209

pat swanson: There's a lot of great energy on this call. So.

643

01:18:35.210 --> 01:18:35.870

Russell Huxtable: Yeah.

644

01:18:35.870 --> 01:18:37.640

pat swanson: You can tell Shannon.

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01:18:39.450 --> 01:18:56.490

Shannon Saunders: Good evening, everyone. I just wanted to chime in. I wanted to say. Actually, I am a provider for Dds. I have residential

housing or group homes, and I wanted to piggyback off of June, because I feel like

646

01:18:56.930 --> 01:19:02.300

Shannon Saunders: a this State gives us as providers a hard time

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01:19:02.410 --> 01:19:26.440

Shannon Saunders: as far as obtaining houses and the restrictions and everything that we have to be in a guidelines, for they offer very little resources. They offer very little help and have great demands, so that prevents us from providing adequate housing available to individuals. As we know, is tons of people that still need. Housing is

648

01:19:26.440 --> 01:19:47.372

Shannon Saunders: a lot of people still on the list that needs, and searching for housing outside of like living with your families and stuff like that. So one I wanted to piggyback off of June just to say that in my business plan I had planned on creating a whole community for them. Now I'm talking to a Grant writer, and then we have

649

01:19:47.760 --> 01:19:50.310

Shannon Saunders: talks about it so brown, probably like

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01:19:50.770 --> 01:20:19.950

Shannon Saunders: the minimum with a small house like Jones, said one bedroom, or taking a a state building, a old state building and renovating it, probably around like 20 million dollars, just to even start a project, maybe, for, like 10 homes and a little community where they would have a store and different things. So that's one of my visions that I have as far as being that person to launch it. Now the talk is here in Delaware.

651

01:20:19.950 --> 01:20:20.480

Shannon Liew's iPhone (2): And so.

652

01:20:20.480 --> 01:20:26.840

Shannon Saunders: So it's like farfetched to have it here and the thing that we were talking about maybe going to.

653

01:20:26.840 --> 01:20:27.460

Shannon Liew's iPhone (2): Favorite.

654

01:20:27.460 --> 01:20:28.629

Shannon Saunders: And so it would be great.

655

01:20:28.630 --> 01:20:29.680

Shannon Liew's iPhone (2): That's it being.

656

01:20:29.680 --> 01:20:30.919

Shannon Saunders: We will, too.

657

01:20:30.920 --> 01:20:31.980

Shannon Liew's iPhone (2): Called you.

658

01:20:33.700 --> 01:20:34.720

Shannon Saunders: Shannon here.

659

01:20:34.720 --> 01:20:36.520

pat swanson: Yeah, Shannon, let me see if I can.

660

01:20:36.520 --> 01:20:37.906

Shannon Saunders: And talking

661

01:20:39.010 --> 01:21:05.550

Shannon Saunders: so that talking about it is one thing and actually implementing it is another thing. So it's pretty like, I would love to do it here in Delaware, be instead, I'm already a provider, and that I already provide services. Here in Delaware. But I just don't see it happening. So if anybody, maybe, Joan, we could connect and, you know, make something happen. But right now I just don't see any.

662

01:21:05.900 --> 01:21:11.428

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: So I can reach out to you. Maybe over it. During the week I work for the State of Delaware myself.

663

01:21:12.291 --> 01:21:14.749

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: I'm on my state laptop. But

664

01:21:14.990 --> 01:21:16.959

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: you know, in addition to this

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01:21:17.250 --> 01:21:21.880

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: dream community, I would like to have a building just for the case managers and for the

666

01:21:22.428 --> 01:21:27.239

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: cnas and the nurses who need to take care of these, you know, so they could have a little place to stay

667

01:21:27.360 --> 01:21:31.879

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: and have a place to decompress, and then come back and work with the clients, so that the poor parents

668

01:21:31.910 --> 01:21:32.520

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: who

669

01:21:33.290 --> 01:21:39.200

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: I you know I've been feeling about 3 times a year I get I I feel sorry for myself.

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01:21:39.390 --> 01:21:42.140

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: and I think that I feel very overwhelmed.

671

01:21:42.750 --> 01:21:45.530

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: And in church on Sunday, I cried.

672

01:21:45.890 --> 01:21:53.030

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: which is probably like the worst place to cry, but maybe the best place to cry. But then I hear the stories of some of these other parents.

673

01:21:53.100 --> 01:21:56.760

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: and I think well, God just placed me here to remember that

674

01:21:57.260 --> 01:21:58.640

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: I have it. Okay.

675

01:21:58.700 --> 01:21:59.809

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: But you know

676

01:21:59.920 --> 01:22:11.756

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: I I fear my son safety. And if we could have like this community with the caregivers, you know, a lot of them have their own housing, but like they have a place to decompress because taking care of these kids is a challenge. So.

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01:22:12.020 --> 01:22:12.610

Shannon Saunders: Instead

678

01:22:13.200 --> 01:22:29.029

Joan Kelley, DE FIMR: They need a place to stay, and they can take a break. And you know, case managers who could live on the premises or whatever. But I I swear to God I have dreams, and if I hit the lottery I can't take it with me. So it's going. It's I'm I have. I have the vision plan, Shannon, like you.

679

01:22:29.810 --> 01:22:33.099

pat swanson: First off, Shannon, I'd like to say, thank you for doing what you do

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01:22:33.110 --> 01:22:41.209

pat swanson: because we are. We all are so thankful for providers for Dps.

681

01:22:41.240 --> 01:23:09.700

pat swanson: And you know these meetings are about these connections. So you know this is this is great. And and, John, you're not alone, Senator Huxtable, if you would put your your email in the chat, please, so that everybody has it. And Jacky, I think you had another question. Ed has another question, and then to be respectful of the Senators. Time, I think we're gonna close the meeting.

682

01:23:10.670 --> 01:23:24.570

Jacque Lukaszewicz: That real quick. Most of you don't know I don't normally talk about my oldest son who's on the spectrum. But I believe it was Jody who was talking about individuals with disabilities, living in poverty. My oldest son is gonna be 36,

683

01:23:24.880 --> 01:23:27.059

Jacque Lukaszewicz: and he had full supports.

684

01:23:27.539 --> 01:23:43.260

Jacque Lukaszewicz: And he has a job. He's very different from his younger brother Alex, and unfortunately he is stuck in a poverty situation where he got so frustrated he gave up. He, he discontinued his support, kept his job coach. He works at shop right.

685

01:23:43.260 --> 01:23:44.300

Claire P: Like, but.

686

01:23:44.300 --> 01:24:11.569

Jacque Lukaszewicz: He does not qualify for food stamps. He has to work a minimum number of hours, or he loses his benefits. And I'm gonna be very vulnerable here and share some things that are that are that are personal. But I I think this is a safe group. To do this. He has resorted to self medicating, and he will stop his medications. He will start his medications, cause he can't get the right supports, because he gave up on what was out there.

687

01:24:12.180 --> 01:24:40.690

Jacque Lukaszewicz: and he is paying his own rent with his social security check, but barely making enough money to feed himself and to. He can't get any better, and he got so frustrated that he gave up, and and he's on the spectrum. He needs a lot of help, but he is his own guardian. So there's only so much as a parent that I can do. But it is so hard to sit back and watch, because the system that's supposed to help him and support him really tied his hands.

688

01:24:40.690 --> 01:24:44.449

Jacque Lukaszewicz: And so, if he wants to do better in his life.

689

01:24:44.550 --> 01:24:58.560

Jacque Lukaszewicz: he's his choices are, go find a job making the money to keep the roof over his head, but he can't do that on his own, or stay back here in poverty, he but but he makes just enough money that he can't get food stamps.

690

01:24:59.070 --> 01:25:21.567

Jacque Lukaszewicz: and he's ambling along so he's stuck, and and our system isn't there, and he's paying, and he's not even getting a break on rent. He's paying an a regular rent rate, and we can't even get a reduced rent rate so that he can live in a halfway, halfway decent apartment. I just wanted to build on on that, because, Jodi, you brought that up, and and I wanted you to hear that, and I don't

normally share my older son's story.

691

01:25:22.430 --> 01:25:32.160

Jacque Lukaszewicz: and and it it's it's very hard. And my fear is that when my phone rings after about this time of the night. Am I getting a phone call about one of my boys.

692

01:25:32.160 --> 01:25:33.430

Claire P: Because I.

693

01:25:33.430 --> 01:25:57.099

Jacque Lukaszewicz: I have one that can't tell me so somebody's gonna call me and say something happened to him, or he got away from the home, or my oldest one. Is this the night that he decided to self medicate? And he got something that was laced with Fentanyl. And because the system is broken, and it's not supporting both my boys. So th, these are the fears that I live with day in and day out. And so I'm probably like 90% of them.

694

01:25:57.100 --> 01:26:06.000

Jacque Lukaszewicz: The parents on here. We don't sleep much. So I I just kind of wanted to echo off Jodi. And and I'm gonna let you go because be respectful of your time. But thank you for hearing that.

695

01:26:06.000 --> 01:26:23.580

pat swanson: Well, and, Jackie, thanks for sharing that. And this is a safe place. This is a this is a no judgment zone. Because we all have issues like this and you know, I always say they de-institutionalized the mentally ill in the Reagan years.

696

01:26:23.800 --> 01:26:26.300

pat swanson: and they did it without a plan.

697

01:26:26.855 --> 01:26:31.090

pat swanson: And look where we are with the mentally ill right now.

698

01:26:31.523 --> 01:26:42.080

pat swanson: and the same thing is happening to our group. And so we, if you want the playbook of what's gonna happen. That's all you have to do. This is my humble opinion. Not speaking for the a team here.

699

01:26:42.377 --> 01:26:44.679
pat swanson: So we need to grab hold of this.

700
01:26:44.690 --> 01:26:52.489
pat swanson: and and we need to be having these frank conversations
and supporting each other and advocating together.

701
01:26:52.580 --> 01:26:53.853
pat swanson: So Ed.

702
01:26:54.810 --> 01:26:55.560
Ed Gootzait: Hey, Jon

703
01:26:56.580 --> 01:26:57.320
Ed Gootzait: Wick.

704
01:26:57.490 --> 01:27:02.000
Ed Gootzait: just want to point out to everyone and the Senator

705
01:27:02.650 --> 01:27:03.890
Ed Gootzait: one

706
01:27:05.120 --> 01:27:07.739
Ed Gootzait: problem that we haven't

707
01:27:08.230 --> 01:27:09.570
Ed Gootzait: Delaware.

708
01:27:10.150 --> 01:27:11.480
Ed Gootzait: we are

709
01:27:14.370 --> 01:27:18.109
Ed Gootzait: we? We have small number

710
01:27:18.120 --> 01:27:19.350
Ed Gootzait: syndrome.

711
01:27:20.420 --> 01:27:23.810

Ed Gootzait: because we're so small. And but that that we

712

01:27:24.150 --> 01:27:27.159

Ed Gootzait: give you an example. California.

713

01:27:30.330 --> 01:27:31.369

Ed Gootzait: in a so

714

01:27:31.470 --> 01:27:32.990

Ed Gootzait: date report

715

01:27:33.480 --> 01:27:34.600

Ed Gootzait: came out

716

01:27:34.750 --> 01:27:36.969

Ed Gootzait: 4 years ago.

717

01:27:37.050 --> 01:27:38.640

Ed Gootzait: They have

718

01:27:39.220 --> 01:27:42.769

Ed Gootzait: almost 500,000

719

01:27:42.970 --> 01:27:45.110

Ed Gootzait: residents with Id.

720

01:27:45.240 --> 01:27:46.200

Ed Gootzait: D.

721

01:27:49.280 --> 01:27:50.140

Ed Gootzait: That

722

01:27:50.540 --> 01:27:55.950

Ed Gootzait: number you. You could just look at that number and look at their popular.

723

01:27:56.150 --> 01:27:59.930

Ed Gootzait: and that fraction is approximately what

724

01:28:00.130 --> 01:28:03.790

Ed Gootzait: we have here, but I think we're being

725

01:28:03.870 --> 01:28:05.800

Ed Gootzait: loathed

726

01:28:06.320 --> 01:28:09.960

Ed Gootzait: by having relatively small numbers.

727

01:28:10.380 --> 01:28:13.780

Ed Gootzait: and California is way ahead of us

728

01:28:14.520 --> 01:28:19.719

Ed Gootzait: because they are. They can't hide from the

729

01:28:20.240 --> 01:28:21.830

Ed Gootzait: large numbers

730

01:28:22.080 --> 01:28:23.570

Ed Gootzait: we can here.

731

01:28:24.770 --> 01:28:30.889

pat swanson: Well, or you could also say we could do something about it and not end up with people in crisis.

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01:28:31.280 --> 01:28:36.379

pat swanson: So good point, Ed. And so, Senator Huxtable.

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01:28:36.560 --> 01:28:43.647

pat swanson: welcome to the A. Team, and we are so thankful that you you came

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01:28:44.120 --> 01:28:45.050

Claire P: We will.

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01:28:45.050 --> 01:28:52.069

pat swanson: There'll be more conversation, I can tell you. We'll

invite you back. Is there anything you'd like to stay in closing.

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01:28:52.280 --> 01:28:53.820

Claire P: Not very much.

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01:28:53.820 --> 01:29:07.140

Russell Huxtable: I I just really wanna thank you all for sharing your stories, your experiences your real life stories. It's it's helpful for me as as I

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01:29:08.080 --> 01:29:11.980

Russell Huxtable: as I look to keep addressing these community development issues.

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01:29:11.980 --> 01:29:12.439

Claire P: I don't.

740

01:29:12.440 --> 01:29:13.055

Russell Huxtable: And

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01:29:13.670 --> 01:29:14.000

Claire P: I was.

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01:29:14.000 --> 01:29:17.840

Russell Huxtable: Yeah, thank you. And and I, I and I look forward to having more conversations.

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01:29:17.840 --> 01:29:18.300

Claire P: I.

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01:29:18.300 --> 01:29:43.269

Russell Huxtable: With this group with with you all, and and I look forward to seeing what you all do bring to the table, because, you know. I heard just some connections today with Shannon and and Joan and and others, and I I think you know, we need to keep moving forward and and progress and we can't if we don't have the conversations, and we don't advocate. So thank you.

745

01:29:43.940 --> 01:29:57.259

pat swanson: Thank you, Senator, for everybody on the call. We have

saved the chat. We'll figure a way to get that out to the group. This has been recorded and the recording will be on our website.

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01:29:57.916 --> 01:30:07.890

pat swanson: You know that the next the main meeting will be the Kelsey, which is a a housing group from California that Ed has secured for us.

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01:30:07.950 --> 01:30:10.220

pat swanson: Thank you. All have a great evening.

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01:30:10.220 --> 01:30:16.459

vhensley with Easterseals: Pat pat. It's Verna. Can you just mention the advocacy? Day, too, in May.

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01:30:16.460 --> 01:30:21.402

pat swanson: How could I forget that? May 20 first, Bernard, do you wanted to? Talk a little bit about that.

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01:30:21.909 --> 01:30:24.240

vhensley with Easterseals: Karen, you can speak to it if you want.

751

01:30:25.240 --> 01:30:44.950

vhensley with Easterseals: So we're we're planning an advocacy day end at legislative fall in Dover on May 20. First. Karen has been sharing some of the information in the emails that are going out. I know we have some new folks on tonight, though. So be sure that you're also signing up to get the emails and

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01:30:45.380 --> 01:31:03.159

vhensley with Easterseals: the the goal is to basically make sure that this, our population, the our loved ones that that we're represented, and very visible at Legislative Hall. And you'll be hearing more about it, but but mainly wanted to make sure it was on your calendars to to plan to to be there.

753

01:31:03.480 --> 01:31:17.409

pat swanson: We have green T-shirts. We give green T-shirts to everybody who goes the green wave. Has made quite an impact in the passing of the Mcnesbie act. So a lot of people are bringing their kids.

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01:31:17.420 --> 01:31:23.320

pat swanson: And you know, for some people, this isn't gonna be easy to bring their kids. But I think

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01:31:23.750 --> 01:31:27.140

pat swanson: you know, seeing our children

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01:31:27.540 --> 01:31:41.480

pat swanson: is the best story that we can tell. So you don't have to just come but yes, absolutely. I'm sorry. I forgot. To mention that one very important.

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01:31:41.480 --> 01:31:43.210

Russell Huxtable: Please, and please come, visit.

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01:31:43.770 --> 01:31:47.230

pat swanson: And yes, go visit Senator Huxtable. Absolutely

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01:31:48.950 --> 01:31:53.669

pat swanson: alright again. Thank you, Senator. Thanks, everybody for being on.

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01:31:53.780 --> 01:31:56.579

pat swanson: It was a great meeting. Thank you.

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01:31:56.580 --> 01:31:57.990

Russell Huxtable: Thank you. Thank you all.

762

01:31:58.450 --> 01:31:59.570

JenniferAaron: Thank you.

763

01:32:00.210 --> 01:32:01.380

Ed Gootzait: Thank you. Senator.