



Create new mental health housing list

Date: August 20, 2006 **Section:** F: Opinion

As a father of two adult children who suffer with schizophrenia, I was pleased to read Bob Conner's Aug. 9 article, "Group fights to get housing for the mentally ill." There is no way a person can keep a mental illness under control and achieve any significant degree of recovery if they do not have a proper place to live. I know there are thousands of New Yorkers around the state who are in the same position as me, struggling to plan for the future care of their children with mental illnesses.

Gov. Pataki has vetoed a bill to create a statewide waiting list for mentally ill adults in need of housing. By signing this bill, the governor could have given us peace of mind to know that our loved ones would be put on a statewide list for safe, reliable housing and services that will meet their needs and enable them to live long and productive lives.

Legislators need to override the governor and create the mental health housing waiting list now.

Roy E. Neville
Schenectady