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CAPE COD COMMISSION

November 2, 2026

To: Cape Cod Commission

Re: Letter of Support: Riverview Friends Together Housing Proposal

Dear Members of the Cape Cod Commission:

I am writing in strong support of Riverview School's proposal to convert the former Cape Cod Irish Village hotel in Hyannis into residential housing for members of Friends Together.

Our daughter, Mia, is 30 years old and a proud alumna of Riverview School. She has a moderate intellectual disability and is a wonderfully social, charismatic, and fun-loving person. The years she spent at Riverview were the best of her life. While at Riverview, she experienced a genuine sense of independence, and a rich community of peers and supports that allowed her to thrive.

When Mia turned 22 and transitioned into the DDS adult service system, that sense of belonging and opportunity seemed to disappear. She has faced isolation, very limited opportunities to form and maintain friendships, and a limited day program. The contrast between her life at Riverview and her experiences since aging out of school has been stark and painful for our family.

Riverview's Friends Together program has restored genuine hope. Mia has been accepted into its day and social programs, but she needs the proposed residential housing in order to fully participate and benefit from them. This housing development would allow Mia and other neurodiverse adults to live with greater independence while remaining connected to a supportive community that understands their needs. For families like ours, this is a rare and critically needed opportunity.

We respectfully urge the Cape Cod Commission to approve this project. Access to appropriate housing alongside a comprehensive adult program is essential for people like Mia who need a safe, supportive home and community beyond the transition from school. Your support would make a meaningful difference in her future and in the futures of many other families navigating the same challenges.

If it would be helpful, Mia would be happy to meet with members of the Commission to share her own experiences and advocate on her own behalf.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Cappuccio

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