



Your Life. Your Voice.

February 4, 2020

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

From: Gabrielle Guedon, Executive Director, Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition

RE: Support for SB 1532 Healthy Home Repairs

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Chair Fagan and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition (OSAC) is a statewide nonprofit organization made up of people experiencing intellectual or developmental disabilities. We also have 18 local self-advocacy member groups in communities around Oregon. We support people to advocate in all aspects of their lives. Housing is important to us because it helps us be members of our community and have a safe place to call our own.

Communities are stronger when all people participate. All people have gifts and weaknesses that mix together in a community to make everyone stronger. People with disabilities are just like everyone else, they just may need different supports. It is important to have a community with people of different interests because we all lead our best lives together in community.

We support SB 1532 because it will build stability and choice in people's lives by providing a fund to assist with home repairs. When people with disabilities find a home that works for them, we are more successful. Our support stabilizes when our home stabilizes. This allows us to find jobs and connect with our communities.

We have members who are living in homes that do not work for them because they need home repairs before they can have Medicaid pay for a home modification like a ramp added to their home. Many of our members do not have financial resources to pay for the repairs. Medicaid will pay for the home modification, but not the repairs.

We also have members who struggle to remain living in their homes knowing the homes need important repairs. Our members do not have extra funds that can go to home repairs instead of food or other mandatory expenses.

Please support SB 1532 so people can access funds for critical home repairs.