

March 22, 2023

Representative Maxine Dexter
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, H-283
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 3309

Dear Chair Dexter and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Housing Alliance urges you to support House Bill 3309, which is an important step toward determining the unmet housing needs of people with disabilities and older adults, and providing incentives for developers to meet those needs.

Housing is consistently a top concern for the disability community and older adults, and finding accessible housing is very difficult. One in four Oregonians has a disability, though standards for building accessible units are far too low to meet the need. HB 3309 would begin to address this challenge by developing incentives in OHCS' funding offerings to encourage developers to increase the quantity and quality of accessible units.

In addition, OHCS would study:

- The unmet need for accessible housing units,
- State rules and building code standards relating to accessible housing, and
- The number and percentage of housing units funded by OHCS that are accessible

The Housing Alliance is a coalition of over 100 member organizations, which include local jurisdictions, grassroots community groups, and housing developers from across the state. Our members have overwhelmingly voted to endorse HB 3309.

We call on you to join the Housing Alliance in supporting this important bill, and to continue working with the disability community to develop the next steps that must follow to address the statewide shortage of accessible homes.

Sincerely,



Cameron Herrington
Director of Policy and Advocacy
cherrington@neighborhoodpartnerships.org