



THE BUREAU OF
**PLANNING &
SUSTAINABILITY**

March 23, 2023

Re: Testimony to Housing Committee on Housing and Homelessness
HB 3309 Relating to Housing Accessibility

Chair Dexter, Co-Vice Chair Gamba, Co-Vice Chair Helfrich, and Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland supports HB 3309 to require minimum percentages of certain accessible units in multifamily housing developed under Oregon Housing and Community Services programs and to require the department to include accessible units and accessibility considerations in programs and plans, and to direct the department to study issues relating to accessible housing.

HB 3309 aligns with Portland's [2035 Comprehensive Plan](#) housing goal to further equitable access to housing, and policies on physically-accessible housing (Policy 5.8) and aging in place (Policy 5.19). Additionally, it will provide local jurisdictions with baseline data related to accessible units, which is important for understanding trends and tailoring housing production strategies to meet growing needs.

This bill offers an upstream approach to creating housing that supports aging in place and addresses displacement. Approximately 25% of Oregonians aged 18+ have a disability, which includes 11% with a mobility impairment, 3% having difficulty with self-care, and 6% with difficulties with independent living ([Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)). Disability is a racial equity issue as Black, Indigenous, and multiracial Oregonians have the highest rates of disability within all age groups ([U.S. Census Bureau](#)).

Furthermore, the [Oregon Office of Economic Analysis](#) (OEA) estimates that the state's 65+ population has been growing rapidly since the baby boomer population began turning 65 in 2011. OEA projects that from 2018 to 2030 there will be 40% more older adults in Oregon due to the rise in the proportion of the total population from 17.5% in 2018 to 22% in 2030; during that same time, median age of the population will rise from 39.4 to 41.6 years and the fastest growing cohort will be those aged 75-84.

Sincerely,

Alan DeLaTorre, Ph.D. (he/him/his)
Age-Friendly City program manager
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