



March 23, 2023

To: Rep. Dexter, Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

From: Em Braman, Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: HB 3309 Support incentivizing OHCS to fund accessible units

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Chair Dexter and Members of the Committee:

My name is Em Braman and I am here today as the Chair of the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition. The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is a group of approximately 30 organizations across Oregon that promote quality services, equity and community integration for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. Our members include people with DD, peer-based family support organizations, support services brokerages, advocacy organizations and DD service providers.

The Oregon DD Coalition believes that Oregon is strongest when everyone has the housing that meets their needs. The DD Coalition supports HB3309 which is a step towards addressing the unmet housing needs of people with disabilities. Housing gives all people the opportunity to build better lives. To succeed, you need a safe, appropriate, and affordable place to call home. Currently, there are insufficient housing options for people with disabilities. We repeatedly hear from people with I/DD that it takes a very long time to find affordable housing and that they and their families often face homelessness, couch surfing, or needing to move into a group living situation when they cannot find their own safe or affordable place to live. While we know the stories, the reality is, as a state, we do not actually know the extent of the need.

HB 3309 is a step in this direction. This bill directs Oregon Housing and Community Services to:

- Study the need for accessible housing,
- Review building code standards that apply to accessible housing,
- Report on the number of accessible units that were funded, and
- Incorporate incentives to increase the quality and quantity of accessible units across the state.

Having quality, accessible housing is critical to living and working as valued members of Oregon communities. When people cannot find housing, their supports are jeopardized or



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interrupted. Without supports, their ability to be community members is destabilized and they risk losing their jobs, relationships and community connections.

This bill is a step in the right direction, towards showing people with disabilities that they are valued and included in our communities. The time to act is now.

We urge to you pass HB3309.