

Submitter: Julie Chick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1576

Chair Pham, Vice Chair Anderson, and members of the committee,
My name is Julie Chick, and I live in Nehalem, OR, on the North Coast. I am writing today in strong support of SB 1576, which would increase the number of accessible homes available to Oregonians with disabilities and older adults.

As you may know, we are working to improve access to accessible housing by building 10 universally designed small units in Nehalem, OR. Groundbreaking is this week for Thompson Springs!

Across Oregon, accessible housing is extremely difficult to find. Many homes have steps, narrow doorways, or bathrooms that cannot be used safely by people with mobility challenges. For those who have trouble walking—and for the growing number of older adults in our state—these barriers can make it nearly impossible to find a place to live.

[Please share your experiences trying to find an accessible home or supporting someone to find an accessible home. Or share your organization's interest in accessible housing.]

SB 1576 takes a practical and much-needed step forward by requiring that new housing include a higher percentage of units built to recognized accessibility standards. This will gradually increase the supply of homes that people with disabilities can actually use, and it will help ensure that Oregon's housing stock reflects the real needs of our population.

Improved accessibility promotes fairness, dignity, and the ability for every Oregonian to live safely and independently. SB 1576 helps address the root problem: there are far too few accessible homes available today.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass SB 1576.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to addressing Oregon's housing needs.

Thank you.

Julie Chick, Nehalem, OR