



Making Travel Easier for Visitors with Disabilities

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To: House Committee on Transportation  
RE: TravelAbility Supports HB 4085

Dear Chair McLain, Vice-Chair Boshart Davis and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing on behalf of TravelAbility in support of HB 4085. TravelAbility works across the travel industry to improve the experience for people with disabilities and older adults. We help destinations, hotels, attractions, and travel professionals build accessibility into their guest experience through training, resources, and industry collaboration. We also serve as a resource for disabled travelers — sharing access information, trip-planning tools, and real stories that make travel more possible, more predictable, and more enjoyable for everyone.

We believe that welcoming autonomous vehicles (AVs) in Oregon, will significantly enhance accessibility and mobility options for people who live with disabilities. We know this, because AVs have already enriched the lives of people who live with disabilities in cities where companies like Waymo currently operate.

Many of the individuals in our community aspire to travel independently but face barriers to traditional driving or navigating complex transit systems when they arrive at their travel destination. Autonomous vehicles, with their accessible in-car and app design, could enable people to request rides independently, navigate new cities more easily and maintain self-determination and freedom to travel with ease.

Autonomous vehicles offer physical and psychological safety and that is unparalleled by traditional modes of transportation. Autonomous technology significantly reduces crashes caused by human error, and also removes the potential for discrimination and judgement tourists who live with disabilities often experience.

The TravelAbility community is committed to advancing equity and independence and believe that the approval of HB 4085 in Oregon will exponentially increase accessibility and mobility options for all community members, especially those who live with disabilities and are unable to drive.

Autonomous vehicles are currently utilized daily by hundreds of thousands of Americans, and we strongly believe that more community members would benefit from this safe, accessible and discrimination-free transportation option. We urge you to vote yes on HB 4085.

Sincerely,

*Jacob Steinman*

Jake Steinman

TravelAbility Founder & CEO