

February 6 2026

Re: SB1576 Accessible Housing Act

Dear Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathaleen B Parker, from Senate District 10 in South Salem, and I support SB 1576. By increasing accessible, subsidized units from 5% to 10% isn't just an infrastructure goal, it is a critical necessity for safety and dignity. Furthermore, this is a proactive investment that will save Medicaid and Medicare dollars by reducing injuries from falls.

- Addresses Critical Shortage: Increases units which will address the severe lack of accessible housing seen by support workers daily.
- Ensures Dignity & Safety: Provides homes that allow people with disabilities to live independently.
- Saves Taxpayer Money: Reduces Medicaid/Medicare costs associated with injuries from in-home falls, creating long-term cost savings.

While I understand concerns about construction costs, the long-term Medicaid savings from reduced accidents outweigh initial, necessary infrastructure investments, making this a proactive use of public funds.

I urge you to support SB1576. Our current housing stock is failing Oregonians with disabilities. Raising accessibility standards in new subsidized developments is a financially responsible, long-term solution. This legislation will save taxpayers money on long-term care costs while providing necessary, dignified housing to those who need it most.

Thank you for your time and support,

Kathaleen B Parker, Willamette Valley, Oregon