



TO: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
FROM: Jake Cornett, Disability Rights Oregon
DATE: February 5, 2026
RE: SB 1576

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

For the record, my name is Jake Cornett, and I am the Executive Director at Disability Rights Oregon.

Disability Rights Oregon is the State's Protection and Advocacy System. We, and our sister organizations in each state, were created by Congress in 1977 as a watchdog organization in response to states' failure to provide for the needs of people with disabilities.

DRO is proud to join many other organizations in a broad coalition supporting SB 1576. We also want to thank Senator Patterson for working diligently with us over the last three sessions to bring this bill forward.

For many people, a home is a foundation for launching their dreams and a haven of comfort and security. Safe, stable housing is something that we all need to thrive, but people with disabilities often face barriers in accessing housing.

The need for accessible housing far exceeds the available supply. Many people with disabilities struggle to find housing that meets both their accessibility and affordability needs. As a result, they are often forced to live in settings that isolate them from their support networks and essential services, or in more restrictive environments such as adult foster homes or residential treatment facilities.

Unfortunately, this is the reality for too many of the Oregonians with disabilities that DRO represents.

With access to appropriate housing, people with disabilities can live independently, improving their quality of life while also reducing costs to the state. SB 1576 is a critical step toward ensuring that accessible, affordable housing is available to all who need it.

SB 1576 seeks to address the severe unmet need for accessible housing by requiring that at least ten percent, or a minimum of two units, in multifamily residential buildings containing more than 15 units be Type A accessible.

The bill also allows Oregon to adopt rules that all units in multifamily housing with three or more dwelling units be Type B dwelling units and be subject to accessibility requirements under the Fair Housing Act.

Passing SB 1576 will be a critical step forward in creating a solution that works for all and, most importantly, ensures that people with disabilities have access to safe, accessible, and affordable housing.

Thank you for your time and consideration. **We urge your support of SB 1576.**

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Hans Bernard or email him at hans@growthconsulting.net.

About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.¹ We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws, investigate abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, and "pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies".² We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.³

¹ See ORS 192.517.

² See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

³ See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).