



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

February 6, 2026

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

Re: **SB 1576**

Position: **Support**

Dear Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson and members of the committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1576.

OAPA is a nonprofit professional membership organization of over 800 planners and those who work with planning in formulating and implementing development and conservation policies at the state and local level. OAPA works to create sustainable and vibrant Oregon communities through professional development, advocacy for sound planning, providing resources to meet the challenges of growth and change, and embracing and promoting diversity, inclusion and equity.

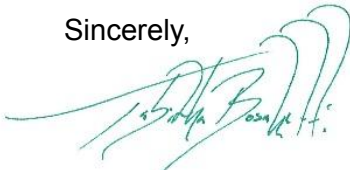
OAPA supports sustainable communities and works to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by helping to create and stabilize places that are equitable, healthy, and resilient and provide ongoing economic, environmental, and social benefits.

The proposed bill furthers the legislative goal of "affirmatively furthering fair housing" (AFFH) as defined in [ORS 197A.100\(9\)](#) as taking meaningful actions that address significant disparities in housing needs, replace segregated living patterns with integrated ones, and transform racially/ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity. This legal mandate requires local governments and housing planners to actively promote housing diversity, accessibility, and equal access to opportunities. Further accessible and visitable housing beyond existing protections under ORS 456.506-456.513 ensure accessibility for people with mobility impairments.

This furthers the purposes of national legislation contained in the Fair Housing Acts of 1968 and 1988 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

As the committee heard at the February 5th hearing, many individuals have trouble accessing appropriate housing. Relatively small changes at the time of construction could make all the difference. As planners, we know that our population is aging and demand for accessible units is likely to rise. As we address our housing crisis, we also need to create housing that will serve all Oregonians and serve our community for the long haul.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tabitha Boschetti', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tabitha Boschetti
Chair, Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee
Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association
www.oregonapa.org