



Disability  
Rights  
Oregon

TO: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness  
FROM: Disability Rights Oregon  
DATE: February 24, 2026  
RE: SB 1576 A

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen, and Breese-Iverson and Members of the Committee,

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 1576A. 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 A is a critical step toward ensuring that accessible, affordable housing is available to all who need it.

SB 1576 A requires subsidized rental developments receiving funding from Oregon Housing and Community Services to comply with Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The bill also expands the authority of the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services to adopt standards that are more stringent than federal requirements for covered multifamily dwellings and other dwelling types for purposes of compliance with 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 A. If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Hans Bernard or email him at [hans@growthconsulting.net](mailto:hans@growthconsulting.net).

*About Disability Rights Oregon*

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.<sup>1</sup> 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".<sup>2</sup> We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See ORS 192.517.

<sup>2</sup> See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

<sup>3</sup> See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).