



March 5, 2025

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support For HB 3589

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

I am writing on behalf of Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity to urge your support for HB 3589 which would address the housing crisis seniors are experiencing by establishing a Senior Housing Development Initiative.

At Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity, we prioritize accessibility in our developments to ensure that homes are livable for individuals of all ages and abilities. Our commitment to accessibility means incorporating features such as step-free entrances, wider doorways, and adaptable living spaces that allow seniors to age in place safely.

Currently, we are piloting a home to be Universally Design certified, which includes additional modifications that we would not typically incorporate due to cost constraints. These enhanced features – such as roll-in showers, lower countertop heights, and additional reinforcements for grab bars – are critical for ensuring long-term accessibility but come at a significant cost. Our Universal Design modifications are adding an estimated \$15,000 to \$25,000 to our typical building costs, which demonstrates the financial challenges of integrating these necessary accessibility features into the affordable housing stock across the state.

By supporting HB 3589, Oregon can help remove financial barriers and expand the availability of housing that allows seniors to remain in their communities with safety, dignity, and independence.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CC" twice.

Carly Colgan
Chief Executive Officer
Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity

We build strength, stability, and self-reliance through affordable homeownership

224 NE Thurston Ave. Bend OR 97701
541-385-5387 / bendredmondhabitat.org
Tax ID #93-1004012 OCCB #83516

