

Submitter: Max Gruenewald
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB444

Dear Chair Pham, Co-chair Anderson, and Committee Members,

My name is M.J. Gruenewald, and I am writing to express my support for SB444. Over nearly 4 years of working in Supportive Housing related services, I have witnessed first hand how challenging it can be for individuals or families with accessibility needs to find suitable housing units. When faced with certain accessibility needs, options for truly accessible units are increasingly limited, often times with long waitlists, or no immediate housing options. These challenges can create greater risk of homelessness if low-income individuals are not able to secure suitable housing.

When considering these accessibility needs that so many Oregonians face, we must also consider the benefits of creating more supply of accessible units for people who may face a disability in the future. It is increasingly costly for older construction homes to be adapted to accessibility needs, even through a Reasonable Accommodation process, so requiring that more new units are built with accessibility features is economically beneficial as well.

SB444 is an investment in the well being of all Oregonians who live with or know someone who lives with a disability that requires special accessibility needs. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Thank you
- M.J. Gruenewald