



February 24, 2026

Chair Pham and Members of the Senate Housing and Development Committee:

On behalf of Relay Resources, we respectfully submit this letter in strong support of SB 1576.

For Oregonians with disabilities, access to safe, affordable, and usable housing is not merely a design preference — it is a matter of civil rights, economic stability, and community inclusion. Oregon faces a well-documented shortage of accessible housing. As a result, individuals with mobility, sensory, and other disabilities are too often forced into institutional settings, segregated housing, or homes that limit independence and safety.

SB 1576 represents an important and measured step toward addressing that gap.

First, the bill strengthens Oregon's commitment to accessibility in publicly supported housing by ensuring that subsidized developments comply with the accessibility standards under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as implemented through federal regulation. While federal law already applies in many circumstances, SB 1576 ensures that accessibility remains a baseline condition for state-supported housing as well. Public investment should advance equal access and nondiscrimination.

Second, SB 1576 appropriately directs relevant agencies to adopt rules to implement accessibility standards through established administrative processes. This approach allows for technical expertise, stakeholder engagement, and careful consideration of cost and feasibility while advancing Oregon's goal of expanding accessible housing supply.

Importantly, the bill does not impose arbitrary quotas or rigid mandates untethered from federal frameworks. Instead, it aligns state housing investments with longstanding civil rights principles and ensures that accessibility is integrated into the development of housing that benefits from public support.

Oregonians with disabilities want what all Oregonians want: the opportunity to live in their communities, close to family, employment, and services. SB 1576 moves our state closer to that goal in a thoughtful, structured, and responsible manner.

For these reasons, we urge your support.

Sincerely,
Nadja Sailesman
VP of Disability & Inclusion
RELAY RESOURCES
NSailesman@relayresources.org