



February 8, 2023

Re: Testimony to Housing Committee on Housing and Homelessness
HB 2889 Relating to Accessible Housing

Chair Dexter, Co-Vice Chair Gamba, Co-Vice Chair Helfrich, and Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland supports HB 2889 in general and specifically the changes related to accessible housing. We encourage the Committee to continue engaging advocates and local jurisdictions focused on accessible housing for older adults and people with disabilities. The following provisions address the need for housing for the growing number of older adults and people with disabilities:

- Section 6(2): Requires OHCS to update the statewide housing equity indicator to locate or estimate the data for each city with a population over 10,000 for the following:
 - (a) Housing outcomes, such as cost burden, tenure, housing condition for various demographic graphics, including race or ethnicity, disability status, English proficiency, and age.
 - (c) Accessibility and visitability of existing and new housing stock.
- Section 17(1): Lists the types of "needed housing" necessary to accommodate the local government's housing need over a 20-year planning period, including:
 - (f) Housing for individuals with a variety of disabilities, related to mobility or communications that require accessibility feature; and
 - (g) Housing for older persons, as defined in ORS 659A.421.
- Section 21(2)(b): Amends ORS 197.290 so that a City's housing production strategy must include a list of specific actions, including the adoption of measures and policies, that the city shall undertake to promote physically accessible and affordable housing.
- Section 23(3)(b): Requires Metro to develop and adopt a housing coordination strategy for completing a housing capacity analysis under ORS 197.296 that includes the adoption of measures and policies or coordinating actions among local governments and other entities, that



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the regional entity shall undertake to promote, including the development and maintenance of housing that is of diverse housing types, high-quality, physically accessible, and affordable.

- Section 34(6)(c): Amends ORS 195.033 to require population forecasts for a 50-year period and to include population data segmented by race, ethnicity, and disability status.

Our communities face unmet accessible housing needs. The National Low Income Housing Coalition highlights that the "shortage of affordable and available homes for the lowest-income renters is also a shortage of accessible homes [for] renters with disabilities and older renters with impairments are likely to struggle to find adequate homes that meet their needs."ⁱ

Portland has committed to advancing accessible, age-friendly housing through its 2035 Comprehensive Plan (e.g., Policy 5.8: Physically-accessible Housing; Policy 5.9: Accessible Design for All; Policy 5.19: Aging in Place).ⁱⁱ The City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is also proactively analyzing housing needs of older adults and people with disabilities as part of the update to our Housing Needs Analysis.

Nationally and in Oregon, about 1 in 4 adults have a disability; in Oregon, up to 20% of the population would benefit from accessible housing as 11% of those with a disability have a mobility impairment, 3% have difficulty with self-care, and 6% have a disability that makes independent living difficultⁱⁱⁱ Furthermore, disability is a racial equity issue as Black, Indigenous and multiracial Oregonians have the highest rates of disability within all age groups; this is especially pronounced in the 65+ population for Blacks (48.4%), Indigenous people (73.9%), and multiracial groups (40.6%); in comparison, the 65+ white non-Hispanic population with a disability is 32.9%.^{iv}

Sincerely,



Alan DeLaTorre, Ph.D. (he/him/his)
Age-Friendly City program manager
City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
503-260-2672 | Alan.DeLaTorre@portlandoregon.gov

ⁱ National Low Income Housing Coalition: *The Shortage of Affordable, Available, and Accessible Rental Homes*. <https://nlihc.org/resource/shortage-affordable-available-and-accessible-rental-homes>

ⁱⁱ City of Portland. 2035 Comprehensive Plan. <https://www.portland.gov/bps/planning/comp-plan/2035-comprehensive-plan-and-supporting-documents>

ⁱⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: *Disability & Health U.S. State Profile Data for Oregon (Adults 18+ years of age)*. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/impacts/oregon.html>

^{iv} U.S. Census Bureau (2020). 5-year data, tables B18101 a-i. (see [summary data](#))

