



February 25, 2026

Re: Yes on SB 1576

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

My name is Michelle Glass, and I submit this testimony on behalf of SO Health-E, the Southern Oregon Regional Health Equity Coalition. We strongly support SB 1576, which strengthens accessibility standards for new housing across Oregon.

SO Health-E works alongside communities across Southern Oregon to identify the issues that most impact family and individual well-being. Since 2021, housing has consistently ranked among the top concerns raised by our members. People are not only struggling to find housing that is affordable, but housing that is accessible, usable, and appropriate for people with disabilities, older adults, and families whose needs change over time. The shortage of accessible housing contributes directly to housing instability, institutionalization, and displacement in our region.

SB 1576 addresses these concerns by ensuring that more new housing is designed with accessibility in mind from the beginning, particularly when public resources are used. Aligning state building standards and housing investments with federal accessibility requirements helps prevent avoidable barriers that too often force people out of their homes or severely limit their housing choices.

As Oregon works to address its housing and homelessness crisis, we must ensure that new development does not recreate inequities that already exist. Building accessibility in at the front end is more cost-effective than retrofitting later, and it supports long-term housing stability, independence, and community integration.

Accessible housing is not a special interest issue. It is a foundational component of a healthy, inclusive housing system. SB 1576 strengthens Oregon's commitment to dignity, equity, and practical solutions that serve people across the lifespan.

We respectfully urge your support for SB 1576.

Thank you for your time and service to Oregon.

Sincerely,

Michelle Glass  
Policy Strategist,  
SO Health-E, the Southern Oregon Regional Health Equity Coalition